

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

*145th  
Founders' Week  
Celebration*



*Welcome to Shreveport*



**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**  
**March 2025**

# SUSLA Priorities



## Priority 1

### **INCREASING ENROLLMENT:**

A vibrant and diverse student body is the heart of any successful institution.



## Priority 2

### **ADOPTING A STUDENT-CENTRIC APPROACH:**

By putting students' needs, aspirations, and success first, we can provide them with a holistic and impactful educational journey.



## Priority 3

### **ATTRACT QUALIFIED EDUCATORS & PROFESSIONALS AND RETAIN TALENTED EMPLOYEES:**

A strong academic community begins with outstanding educators and professionals.



## Priority 4

### **PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS:**

By fostering a culture of continuous improvement, we can enhance our processes and ensure that we are delivering on our promise of excellence.



## Priority 5

### **ENHANCING CUSTOMER SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP OF PLACE:**

Providing exceptional service to our students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders is paramount as well as an understanding that what is good for the community is good for SUSLA.



## Priority 6

### **CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FACULTY AND STAFF:**

Collaboration and communication between our faculty and staff are essential for a cohesive and productive academic environment.



## Priority 7

### **INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES:**

Providing state-of-the-art facilities is crucial to creating an optimal learning environment.



# CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

March was a month of celebration and reflection as we honored Southern University System's rich history during Founders' Week. This special time allowed SUSLA to pay tribute to the visionaries who laid the foundation for our institution and to celebrate the legacy they entrusted to us. The week was highlighted by our Founders' Day Convocation, along with a series of events that brought our campus community together. These activities not only commemorated our past but also inspired us to continue building on the principles of excellence, access, and opportunity that have always defined SUSLA.

We also take great pride in recognizing the incredible contributions of our employees. Their dedication, hard work, and achievements are the driving force behind SUSLA's success. From faculty members who inspire our students to staff who ensure the smooth operation of our campus, every individual plays a vital role in advancing our mission. We celebrated their efforts and expressed our gratitude for their unwavering commitment to our institution and students.

As we celebrated Founders' Week and honored our employees, we remained focused on furthering student and faculty engagement. We launched new initiatives to strengthen connections across our campus, fostering collaboration and innovation in teaching, learning, and research. By creating spaces for meaningful dialogue and shared experiences, we aim to empower our students and faculty to reach new heights of achievement. These efforts are essential as we prepared for April's pivotal Board of Supervisors meeting, to showcase SUSLA's progress and outline our vision for the future.

Pursuing excellence remains at the heart of everything we do at SUSLA. Let us carry forward the spirit of Founders' Week, the dedication of our employees, and the energy of our engaged campus community. Together, we are not only honoring our past but also shaping a future filled with promise and opportunity. Thank you for your continued commitment to making SUSLA a beacon of excellence and a catalyst for student success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. A. J. Gantt". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Dr. Aubra J. Gantt**  
Chancellor

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

# 145th Founders' Week

## EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Southern University at Shreveport proudly honored its dedicated employees during the Employee Years of Service Program held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at the Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport (SUMAS). Themed "A Tapestry of Service," the affair celebrated the remarkable commitment and contributions of employees who have reached 5, 10, 20, 50, and 55 years of service to the institution.

"This event is not just about recognizing the number of years served but celebrating the impact each individual has made on our students, colleagues, and the broader community," said Dr. Aubra Gantt, Chancellor. This year, twenty employees were honored for their service milestones. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon in the atrium of the School of Nursing. This year's intimate event is the second held under the leadership of Dr. Gantt.





# 145th Founders' Week

## FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION

On March 17, 2025, Southern University at Shreveport faculty, staff, students, and community members gathered to honor the Southern University System's rich legacy during the 145th Annual Founder's Day Celebration. The event celebrated SUSLA's enduring commitment to education, accessibility, and community impact, while paying tribute to the visionary leaders who laid the foundation for the Southern University System. Senator Sam Jenkins, Caddo Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, SU System Board of Supervisors Member, were in attendance.

The event highlighted the historic vision of P.B.S. Pinchback, T.T. Allain, T.B. Stamps, and Henry Demas, who championed the creation of an institution dedicated to providing higher education for all, particularly Black Americans. Their efforts led to the establishment of Southern University in New Orleans in 1880. Today, the Southern University System continues to uphold its mission of affordability, accessibility, and excellence, serving as a cornerstone of educational and workforce development in Louisiana.

The event also honored the university's pioneering founders, including Joseph S. Clark (1st President), Emma Mayberry (1st Director of Home Economics), Octavia Clark (1st Music Teacher and Registrar), John S. Jones (1st Dean), and James B. Moore (1st Director of Industrial Arts). Their contributions laid the groundwork for SUSLA's success and its role in shaping generations of leaders.

A special guest, former U.S. Attorney Brandon B. Brown, delivered an inspiring address. Brown, a Southern University Law Center alumnus, shared his journey of public service and leadership, emphasizing the importance of education and community engagement. His bipartisan nomination as U.S. Attorney and his impactful work in reducing crime across Louisiana resonated with attendees, inspiring students to pursue excellence and service

The convocation also recognized outstanding student achievements. Vertrain Allen (Respiratory Therapy), Marlon Davenport (Computer Science), Jessica Barton (Psychology), and Tamia Williams (Radiologic Technology) were honored as scholarship recipients by Chancellor Dr. Aubra Gantt. These students exemplify SUSLA's commitment to academic excellence and workforce readiness.

As SUSLA celebrates its 145th year, the university remains steadfast in its mission to provide quality, affordable education while addressing the intellectual, cultural, and labor needs of the region. The Founders' Day Convocation served as a powerful reminder of SUSLA's legacy and its bright future, rooted in the vision of its founders and the dedication of its students, faculty, and alumni.





# 145th Founders' Week

## FACULTY & STAFF TALENT SHOW

In celebration of Southern University System Founders' Day, SUSLA's Showcase of Excellence and Faculty Talent Extravaganza took center stage on Tuesday, March 18, in the Alphonse Jackson Auditorium. Under the theme "We Are One," the event showcased the incredible talents and cultural pride of SUSLA's faculty and staff, bringing the campus community together in a vibrant celebration of unity and creativity.

The program was expertly emceed by Mrs. Shannon Levingston, who kept the energy high throughout the afternoon. Chancellor Dr. Aubra Gannt and Dr. Sherlynn Hall delivered heartfelt greetings, setting the tone for an event that highlighted SUSLA's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and the arts.

The extravaganza featured a variety of performances and showcases, including "A Showcase of Culture," where faculty members modeled stunning African attire, celebrating the rich heritage of the diaspora. The "After 5" segment brought the house down with singing, talent expositions, and a lively swing dance performance that had the audience on their feet. The "HBCU Spirit" showcase allowed faculty to proudly display their HBCU and SUSLA pride through spirited clothing and accessories.

Music by DJ Matt and DJ Jazzy kept the atmosphere electric, ensuring the event was as entertaining as it was inspiring. The Talent Extravaganza not only highlighted the diverse talents of SUSLA's faculty but also reinforced the sense of community and shared purpose that defines the university.

A special thank you was extended to the planning committee for their hard work and dedication in organizing such a memorable showcase. Dr. Sharon Green had the vision for this great event and Faculty President, Daphne Thibeaux, and her executive team worked diligently with the committee to make the vision become a reality. Their efforts ensured the Founders' Week celebrations were a resounding success, honoring SUSLA's legacy while looking forward to a bright and united future.







SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

# 145th Founders' Week

## CAKE WITH THE CHANCELLOR

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) continued celebrating Southern University System Founders' Day with "Cake with the Chancellor". Held at 12:00 PM in the Alphonse Jackson Foyer, the gathering brought together students, faculty, and staff to honor the university's rich history and the visionary founders who laid its foundation.

Chancellor Dr. Aubra Gantt led the festivities, taking a moment to reflect on SUSLA's legacy and express her gratitude to the campus community. "Thank you for being part of history," she said, acknowledging the hard work and dedication of staff and students who contribute to SUSLA's ongoing success. Dr. Gantt then cut the first slice of cake, symbolizing the university's continued growth and commitment to excellence.

Students were treated to SUSLA swag, adding a touch of school spirit to the celebration. The event concluded with an engaging trivia game, where participants tested their knowledge of Southern University System history and traditions. Prizes were awarded to the winners, adding an extra layer of fun to the afternoon.

The "Cake with the Chancellor" event was a heartfelt reminder of our Southern University System's enduring mission and the strong community that supports it. As Founders' Week came to a close, the event left attendees feeling inspired and proud to be part of SUSLA's legacy.



## STUDENT CRAWFISH BOIL

Students, faculty, and staff came together on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, for a lively crawfish boil. Held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, the event was a resounding success, blending delicious food, fun activities, and great music to celebrate SUSLA's rich history and vibrant community spirit.

The event featured a classic Louisiana crawfish boil, complete with all the fixings, and sweet treats like snow cones to keep the energy high. Live music by DJ Matt added to the festive atmosphere, creating the perfect backdrop for students and staff to connect and enjoy the evening. The event showcased strong student involvement, with many participating in the planning and execution of the festivities, further highlighting SUSLA's commitment to fostering leadership and engagement among its students.

SUSLA's Southern University System Founders' Day events honored a legacy of excellence and its mission to provide accessible, quality education. The crawfish boil and student-led festivities not only brought the campus community together but also supported initiatives that benefit students and enhance their educational experience.

SUSLA extends its gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this event. Together, we continue to build on the foundation laid by our founders, creating a brighter future for our students and community.



# 145th Founders' Week

## SUSLA SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 23rd, Southern University at Shreveport's Chancellor, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, and members of the SUSLA community joined the congregation of Mt. Bethel No. 1 Missionary Baptist Church and Pastor Toussaint Battley, Jr. for SUSLA Sunday! This initiative provided an opportunity for faculty, staff, students, and alumni to connect with the local community outside the campus, fostering meaningful relationships and sharing information about the university's programs and degrees. Chancellor Gantt delivered brief remarks during the service, highlighting SUSLA's commitment to education, community engagement, and workforce development.

SUSLA Sunday serves as a bridge between the university and the community, offering a platform to showcase the institution's academic programs and support services. The event underscored SUSLA's dedication to accessibility and its mission to empower individuals through education.

The SUSLA community extends its gratitude to Pastor Toussaint Battley Jr. and Mt. Bethel No. 1 Missionary Baptist Church for their partnership and warm hospitality shown during our Founders' Day Celebration. Together, we continue to strengthen the bonds between SUSLA and the communities we serve.





## SUSLA SSS HOSTS TRANSFER DAY 2025: BRIDGING PATHS AND UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

On March 20, 2025, Southern University at Shreveport's (SUSLA) Student Support Services (SSS) Department held its inspiring annual Transfer Day event in the Jesse Stone Building, creating connections for students seeking educational advancement.

This impactful event brought together representatives from esteemed institutions, including those from Louisiana—Southern University and A & M (SUBR), the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), Grambling State University (GSU), Louisiana Tech University, Nicholls State University, the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), and Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA). Additionally, institutions from Texas, such as Wiley College, Jarvis Christian University, Texas College, Texas A&M University – Texarkana, and the University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler), as well as Southern Arkansas University (SAU) and Arkansas Baptist University from Arkansas, also joined the effort.

Transfer Day empowered students to engage directly with institution representatives, discussing transfer requirements, program offerings, and scholarship opportunities. This event created a valuable space for students to make informed choices about their academic journeys.

SUSLA's Student Support Services is devoted to forging pathways that lead to higher education and fulfilling careers for its students. The team extends heartfelt gratitude to the participating schools and individuals whose invaluable support made Transfer Day a resounding success.



### SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION: DR. GANTT'S LEADERSHIP AT SBBA SUMMIT

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is proud to highlight Chancellor Aubra Gantt's participation as a panelist at the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance (SBBA) Higher Education Summit on March 11th. Held at the Greater Shreveport Chamber Office, the summit brought together key leaders, including the State's Commissioner for Higher Education, Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, higher education leaders, and members of the North Louisiana legislative delegation. Dr. Gantt contributed to critical discussions on student affordability, workforce alignment, and securing operating funds and strategic investments for institutions.

The summit emphasized reducing financial barriers by addressing tuition costs, scholarships, and fees, while also exploring ways to align higher education with workforce needs through industry partnerships and tailored programs. Panelists also stressed the importance of sustainable funding to support infrastructure, faculty, and program development, ensuring institutions like SUSLA can continue to provide high-quality education. Following the summit, Dr. Gantt joined fellow panelists for dinner, furthering engagement and collaboration with regional stakeholders.

SUSLA commends Dr. Gantt for her leadership and contributions to this dialogue. The SBBA Higher Education Summit serves as a vital opportunity to shape the future of higher education in North Louisiana, and SUSLA is proud to have an essential part in these transformative conversations.



### SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL 'PINK OUT' EVENT CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

On March 11th, Southern University at Shreveport's Chancellor, Dr. Aubra Gantt, joined the Shreveport City Council's celebration of Women's History Month at their "Pink Out" event. The council chamber was awash in vibrant shades of pink and florals as leaders and community members honored the achievements of women in business, civic leadership, education, public service, and beyond.

From pink ensembles to pink neckties, attendees showed their support for women's leadership, strength, and resilience. Highlights included the recognition of Justice Jacqueline A. Scott, named one of USA Today's "Women of the Year" for Louisiana, and two young essay contest winners who received \$250 awards for their heartfelt essays about their grandmother. Dr. Gantt was recognized as the first woman to hold the position of Chancellor at Southern University at Shreveport! Council Chairwoman Tabatha Taylor and Vice Chairwoman Ursula Bowman emphasized the importance of celebrating women's leadership and resilience, while Mayor Tom Arceneaux joined in the festivities.

"Women's History Month is a time to reflect on the trailblazers who have shaped our world and continue to inspire us daily," said Taylor. Bowman echoed this statement: "This was a chance for our youth to share their perspectives while we all came together to honor women's contributions."

SUSLA applauds the Shreveport community for coming together to celebrate the power and resilience of women and the inspiring stories behind them. Let's continue to uplift and support the incredible achievements of women who paved the way and inspired us all!



## SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION AT EGPES 2025

**Presentation Title: Innovations in Flywheel Energy Generation, Distribution, and Storage – The PHOS Global-Southern University at Shreveport, LA-Northwestern State University at Natchitoches, LA Initiative**

The EGPES 2025 in Cairo Egypt conference provided a platform to present a groundbreaking initiative on flywheel energy storage. On February 17, 2025, Dr. John K. Galitos, Dean of Workforce Development and Associate Professor of Chemistry, delivered an insightful presentation on advancements in flywheel technology, its role in sustainable energy, and its integration into workforce training.

Dr. Galitos explained the fundamentals of flywheel energy storage, emphasizing its efficiency, longevity, and environmental benefits over conventional batteries. He showcased a joint research initiative between PHOS Global, Southern University at Shreveport, and Northwestern State University, highlighting industry-academic collaboration in workforce development. The presentation explored applications in smart grids, renewables, and industry, underscoring their role in grid stability and reduced fossil fuel reliance. Economic and environmental benefits, including cost savings and a lower carbon footprint, were also discussed.

The presentation drew strong interest from industry leaders, academics, and policymakers, sparking discussions on scalability, implementation, and future collaborations. Dr. Galitos' session reinforced the importance of partnerships in advancing sustainable energy solutions and positioned flywheel technology as a key driver of future innovations.

### SUSLA Workforce Development Expands Online Training Opportunities for U.S. Air Force Service Members

On Tuesday, February 25, 2025, Southern University at Shreveport's Workforce Development (WD) Division, led by Dr. John K. Galitos, Dean of Workforce Development and Associate Professor of Chemistry, and Ms. Jacqueline Yarbrough, Special Assistant to the Workforce Dean, successfully promoted and marketed its online training programs

to the Barksdale Air Force Base service members. This initiative aims to enhance career readiness, technical skills, and workforce adaptability for military personnel.

SUSLA's commitment to supporting military education and professional development was evident in the strong interest received. Over 25 service members requested additional information on Continuing Education (CE) courses, including Trades, Hospitality, Cybersecurity, IT and Web Development, Project Management, Childcare Development, and Career Preparation.

As the only HBCU present at the event, SUSLA proudly showcased its 833+ synchronous and asynchronous online training courses. The SUSLA WD Team received positive feedback for their accuracy of information, clarity of marketing materials, and overall professionalism. This success reinforces SUSLA's role in expanding workforce development opportunities for military personnel and highlights its ongoing impact in military education and career advancement.





## VISIT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO, EGYPT

Dr. John K. Galiotos, while attending and presenting at the prestigious EGPES 2025 annual energy conference in Cairo, Egypt, was invited to visit the American University in Cairo (AUC). During his visit (02/19/2025), he met with Dr. Abdelaziz Al Khlaifat, Professor of Petroleum Engineering and Department Chair of Petroleum and Energy Engineering, Dr. Moustafa Oraby, Professor of Petroleum Engineering, and other esteemed faculty members of the Energy Department. Dr. Galiotos toured the university's state-of-the-art facilities and engaged in discussions on innovative projects (Dr. Oraby's patented green hydrogen generation from sea water technology) and collaborative opportunities aimed at fostering workforce development partnerships between AUC and SUSLA.

Furthermore, Dr. Galiotos was invited to contribute as a co-author to a highly acclaimed research paper titled *Applying Circular Economy Principles and Sustainability in Petroleum Produced Water Treatment to Reduce Waste and Mitigate Negative Environmental Impacts*. Recognized for its innovation and significance, this research has been selected for presentation at the Annual Utilities Conference in September 2025 in Dubai, UAE.



## SUSLA'S ROY GRIGGS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS HOSTS TRANSFORMATIVE RETREAT

On Friday, March 14, 2025 Chancellor Aubra Gantt, students, faculty, staff, and board members of the Roy Griggs School of Business (RGSB) gathered at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) for an impactful retreat themed "INSPIRE, INFLUENCE, IGNITE!" Mr. Roy Griggs, President & CEO of RGSB, opened the retreat with inspiring remarks, sharing his vision for 2025, and beyond. Next, Johnathan Reynolds, Board President, charged board members to give of their time, talent, and treasure. Dr. Gantt followed with a compelling campus impact report, highlighting SUSLA's commitment to advancing business education and student success. In her report, Dr. Gantt highlighted SUSLA's recent achievements, including increased enrollment in business programs, expanded partnerships with local industries, and the introduction of new initiatives to support student affordability and career readiness.

Dr. Gantt and SUSLA commended Mr. Griggs and all participants for their dedication to shaping the future of business education and community growth. Together, they are inspiring change, influencing progress, and igniting transformative growth throughout the region.



## SUSLA CELEBRATES KOKA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY AT DIAMOND JUBILEE CONCERT

On March 17th, Southern University at Shreveport joined the Shreveport-Bossier community in celebrating a historic milestone: the 75th anniversary of KOKA Radio, a cornerstone of urban gospel broadcasting. The "Diamond Jubilee Concert," held at Morning Star Baptist Church of Shreveport, brought together generations of listeners, artists, and community leaders for an evening of uplifting gospel music and heartfelt recognition of KOKA's enduring legacy.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, represented SUSLA at the event, delivering a powerful statement that highlighted the station's profound impact on the community. "What a joy it is to be here tonight at the KOKA Diamond Jubilee Celebration!" Dr. Gantt exclaimed. "For 75 years, KOKA has been a source of comfort, hope, and inspiration for over 35,000 listeners in our community and beyond. At SUSLA, we are proud to partner with KOKA, a vital part of the fabric of our community."

The celebration also honored remarkable individuals for their contributions to the region. Mrs. Dottie Bell former SU System Board of Supervisors member was named Public Official of the Year, recognizing her unwavering dedication to public service and community development. Dr. Joe Gant former SU System Board of Supervisors member, was named Pastor of the Year, honoring his exceptional leadership and commitment to spiritual guidance and community outreach. Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, SU System Board of Supervisors member was celebrated as Person of the Year for his leadership and commitment to safety and justice in Shreveport. Both honorees embody the values of service and excellence that KOKA has championed for 75 years.

The concert featured an incredible lineup of gospel artists, whose performances filled the evening with joy and praise. The event not only celebrated KOKA's rich history but also underscored its role as a unifying force in the community, inspiring faith, music, and gratitude.

SUSLA is proud to have been part of this milestone celebration and extends its congratulations to KOKA for 75 years of excellence. Here's to many more years of sharing the good news and uplifting our community through music!



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