VOLUME 01 | ISSUE 01 | JUNE 2023







# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

#### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 56TH SGA PRESIDENT JY'RON OMYREA YOUNG — SU SYSTEM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT



Congratulations to Mr. Jy'Ron Omyrea Young elected to serve as the Student Representative on the SU System Board. He is a native of Bastrop, Louisiana. He is the son of Annquinette Young and the oldest of two siblings. Jy'Ron is the 56th Student Government Association (SGA) President at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA). He is a sophomore majoring in Computer Information Systems (CIS). As a student at SUSLA, he has served as the 2022-2023 Freshman Class President, a member of the Soundwave Band and the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement.

Young is a 2022 graduate from Bastrop High School, where he was the Battalion Commander in JROTC, 4-H Junior Leaders President, Student Council President, and Co-Captain of the baseball team. Jy'Ron's words of wisdom are, "My failures can't overtake me if my determination and grit are stronger."

Jy'Ron is interning with the Summer STEM Enrichment Academy this summer, working with students in Mechatronics Technology (Robotics), Drone Technology, Aerospace Technology, and Renewable Energy Technology.

#### SUSLA CELEBRATES SU DAY AT THE CAPITOL











#### TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES TAKES ON CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) traveled to Chicago, Illinois, on May 16-19, 2023, for a transfer informational visit to the University of Chicago, a cultural trip to the National Science Museum, and other activities, such as a graduate school tour and informative sessions. The SSS participants gained insight into the four-year school admissions process and funding opportunities during the visit. They met with the student body, staff, and faculty from various programs of interest, including Biology, Criminology and Justice Services, History, and Social Work and Kinesiology.

"The Student Support Services program strives to provide program participants with opportunities for exposure, experience, and education," said Dr. Angela Nichols, Director of SSS. "Research indicates that first-generation college students are less likely to enroll in four-year schools than their continuing-generation counterparts, so opportunities such as this are critical."

The SSS First-Generation Mentors accompanied the students on the trip. Special thanks to: Dr. Calvin Lester, Professor Fred Moss IV, Professor Frederick Jackson, Dr. Rhonda Preston, and Mr. Billy Flowers.

Student Support Services is one of the many TRiO Programs fully funded through the U.S. Department of Education to assist first-generation, income-eligible students to remain in good academic standing and graduate from college.

# OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (NSO) FALL 2023

The Office of Admissions & Recruitment will launch their Fall 2023 New Student Orientation (NSO) on Wednesday, June 14th for all first-time freshmen and transfers enrolled at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA). The NSO program aims to assist new students in transitioning into the college environment and becoming familiar with the various services, resources, and opportunities available at SUSLA.

During their advising and registration session, students will be able to meet with a financial aid representative, register for classes, and finalize their enrollment for the Spring 2024 semester.



### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT WELCOMES NEW CHANCELLOR — DR. AUBRA J. GANTT



It's a new era at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) as the campus welcomes Dr. Aubra J. Gantt as the new chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport on June 1, 2023.

Gantt, a native of Shreveport, has more than 25 years of progressive experience in postsecondary education and has served in various state government, academic affairs, student affairs, enrollment management, and clinical behavioral and mental health positions. Most recently, she served as a clinician at various hospitals in Phoenix, Arizona, and a professor at a private institution.

She pledges to continue SUSLA's success by enhancing partnerships, technology, and in-demand programs that prepare students for a global workforce. "When we are collaborative, committed, and courageous, then we will be on our way to being unapologetically excellent," Gantt said.

Gantt began her professional educational career at SUSLA, serving in numerous positions, including Registrar, Director of Admissions & Recruitment, and Director and Counselor of Educational Talent Search-TRiO Programs. Dr. Gantt accepted the Registrar role Tarrant County College District (TCCD) Northwest Campus in Fort Worth, Texas, becoming the first African American Registrar in the history of the college.

Gantt is the founding Vice President for Academic Outreach and Student Success at the TCCD-TCC Connect Campus in Fort Worth, Texas, one of the most comprehensive community colleges in the nation. She served as Dean of Enrollment Management at Scottsdale Community College in the Maricopa Community College District, one of the largest two-year college systems in the country.

With 15 years of college teaching and counseling experience, she has served as an Adjunct Instructor at TCC; Tarleton State University in Fort Worth, Texas; and Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Gantt holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies (Social Work) from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge (SUBR), a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) from Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), and a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas.

Dr. Gantt has led many organizational efforts, established, supported, and maintained strong community outreach efforts with industry partners, educational institutions, and K-12 partners. These efforts have increased student enrollment, improved student services for e-learning and oncampus students, improved campus and learning environments, and increased retention and completion rates.

All these efforts and successes are integral to leading a university and creating successful team leadership. Dr. Gantt is committed to student success within the college setting and improving the lives of the people in the local community she serves.

Welcome back to Southern University at Shreveport, Chancellor Gantt!

#### **FACULTY & STAFF RECEIVED NISOD AWARDS IN AUSTIN, TX**



Hundreds gathered in Austin, TX, to attend the Annual NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Conference, May 27-30, 2023. Members of SUSLA's Faculty and Staff were recipients of the NISOD Excellence Award.

Dr. Lonnie McCray, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development at SUSLA, nominated the following to receive the award: JoAnn Brown, Wilford Claville, Lynne Eatman, Anjelica Hart, Sherman Houston, Terri Johnson, Shannon Levingston, Kenie Moses, Carolyn O'Neal, Jane O'Riley, Gwendolyn Tennell, Shirley Vides, and Colton Wiggins. The NISOD Excellence Award recognizes individuals doing extraordinary work on their campuses while demonstrating an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. Those in attendance received a silver medallion adorned with a burnt orange ribbon.

"This was a great conference to learn how to engage students differently to yield success. The awards ceremony was an incredible bonus! Thank you to Dr. McCray for nominating me to receive this award," says Levingston, Training Coordinator for the SUSLA Small Business Development Center (SBDC).







Proceeds benefit the Southern University Shreveport Foundation Scholarship Fund. Southern University Shrevport Foundation is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization. Founded in 1999.







The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the Office of the Chancellor **Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor** 

Contributing Editors
Linzola D. Winzer, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Stephanie Graham, Director of Grants & Sponsored Programs
Office of the Chancellor

Articles provided through various campus units and the Department of Marketing & University Relations

Design and layout provided the through the Office of Graphic Services

Dellanee Wade, Graphic Services & Multimedia Coordinator

Department of Marketing & University Relations

#### 3050 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE, SHREVEPORT, LA 71107 • SUSLA.EDU • 318.670.6000

Southern University at Shreveport does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, or any other protected class. For Title IX inquiries, contact Michael Taylor, Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Leonard C. Barnes Administration Building, Room A-34, (318) 670-9302 or TitleIX@susla.edu.

Section 504 Coordinator: Dr. Anjelica Hart, NCR Building, Room 125, (318) 670-9367.