

Southern University at Shreveport

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1967



CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Volume 2 | Issue 8 | August 2024

CHANCELLOR GANTT'S PRIORITIES

2023 - 2024

1

Increasing Enrollment:

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

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.

3

Attract Qualified Educators & Professionals and Retain Talented Employees:

A strong academic community begins with outstanding educators and professionals.

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.

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.

6

Cultivating Relationships Between Faculty and Staff:

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

7

Investing in Infrastructure and Facilities:

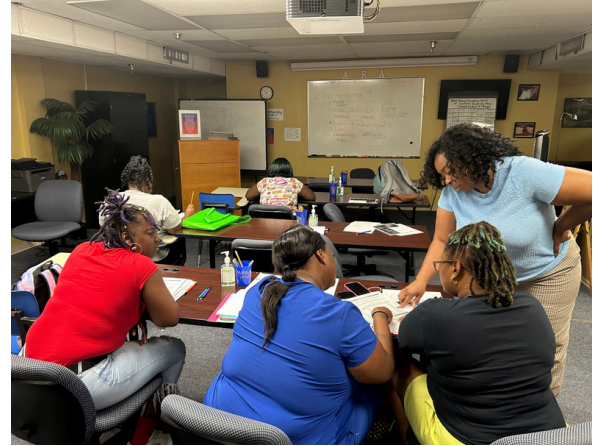
Providing state-of-the-art facilities is crucial to creating an optimal learning environment.

Free HISET Program at the Educational Opportunity Center

The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is excited to announce a new partnership with Community Renewal to offer the HISET program for free at the Southern University Metro Center!

This incredible opportunity aims to boost access to college and employment, positively impacting our metropolitan area. Here's why earning your high school diploma through HISET can change your life:

- **Higher Earnings:** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, individuals with a high school diploma earn \$9,634 more per year than those without.
- **Employment Opportunities:** High school graduates are less likely to be unemployed compared to dropouts.
- **College Access:** Virtually all post-secondary institutions require a high school diploma or GED, making higher education within reach.
- **Community Contribution:** Graduates contribute more to local, state, and federal taxes, supporting schools, roadways, and public programs that promote safe communities.



Jala Rollins, Educational Specialist, support students during class.

About the Educational Opportunity Center

The EOC is a free educational outreach program providing counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults. Designed for individuals aged 19 and above, the program assists in returning to education, whether it's college, vo-tech, specialized school, or a GED program. We also offer services to improve financial and economic literacy.

About Community Renewal

Community Renewal connects neighbors and residents to restore safe and caring community foundations. By building hope and renewing the spirit of cooperation, we foster unity and trust in every segment of the community.

Don't miss this chance to advance your education and career. Join us today!

“We believe in empowering adults to reach their full potential. For more information, contact the Educational Opportunity Center at 318-670-9662 or visit www.susla.edu/trioec

Southern University at Shreveport Partners with Youth Build HACS for Comprehensive Life Skills and Job Readiness Program



Dr. Sharon F. Green

Southern University at Shreveport partnered with Youth Build HACS from June 17th to June 28th, and July 8th to July 19th, 2024, to offer a comprehensive life skills and job readiness program, facilitated by Dr. Sharon F. Green. Recognizing the challenges of achieving success in today's workforce without essential life skills, this program focused on critical areas such as relationship-building, problem-solving, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and self-management.

Participants engaged in structured exercises designed to develop personal and interpersonal skills through social-emotional learning. These activities have been proven to lead to improved outcomes in school and greater success in the workplace. A highlight of the program was a campus tour of SUSLA, where students received information about student life and academic programs. The closing event featured speeches by students on what the program meant to them and showcased their talent

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We are committed to providing programs that equip participants with skills identified by the World Economic Forum as the most important for employability in 2025, including analytical thinking, active learning, problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, leadership, resilience and flexibility, emotional intelligence, service orientation, and negotiation.

This program originates from the Division of Grants and Sponsored Programs, with Stephanie Graham serving as the Director and Brenda Henderson as the Coordinator.

Jaguar Courtyard Meet and Greet & Movie Night



Dr. Rhonda Preston, Residential Life and Judicial Affairs Coordinator, and Brittney Sims, Jaguar Courtyard Community Manager, welcome students. The students enjoyed the occasion as discussions ensued on the importance of taking care of the Jaguar Courtyard and living as a safe and continuously growing community.

After the Meet and Greet, Marlon Davenport, the SGA President, along with Miss SUSLA Lorraine Baxter and a few other residents, shared feedback from the meeting. They then engaged in a competitive game of pool, showcasing the connections and friendships that form among on-campus residents.

Also this month, residents foster student interaction during a movie night followed by film trivia and prizes.



Outstanding TRIO Upward Bound North Student

With an impressive 20 scholarship offers, SUSLA TRIO North student, Lionel Prudhomme, Jr., has announced his football commitment. Prudhomme attracted the interest of elite football programs in the SEC and Big 12 conferences as a highly regarded 3-star player. Family, supporters, coaches, and recruiters alike are anxiously awaiting his decision, demonstrating his enormous influence on the recruiting scene.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Prudhomme is a model student and community leader. Having completed over thirty hours of Dual Enrollment credits, he is an active TRiO student. His commitment to academics and service was demonstrated during his tenure as President of the TRiO Ambassadors.

Prudhomme's commitment date represents years of unwavering work and dedication in the classroom and on the football field, in addition to representing a significant personal achievement.

His story serves as motivation for aspiring athletes in Shreveport and beyond, demonstrating the ability of local talent to succeed on a national platform.



Interim Director TRiO Upward Bound Sabine

Thirandar Francis is an accomplished academic professional with a twenty-two year background in education and human resources. She earned an Associate of Science in General Studies in Education from Southern University in Shreveport, LA, and a Child Development Certification from Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Thirandar also holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management from the University of Phoenix in Tempe, AZ. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Public Administration at the University of Phoenix, with an expected completion date of September 16, 2024. Additionally, she is a NASPA-Certified Peer Educator- Train the Trainer, has completed Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, and holds a Louisiana Department of Education Ancillary.

Thirandar volunteers with several organizations and is inspired by Marian Wright Edelman's words, "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

Thirandar has significantly impacted student participation and community partnerships through her work with the TRiO programs and Early College and Dual Enrollment Program at Southern University at Shreveport. She is dedicated to the Bossier Parish and Caddo Parish Schools and has a deep appreciation for the Southern University System who she holds dear to heart.



Interim Director with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) at Southern University in Shreveport

Ms. Amanda Flynn, MBA, BCA is Interim Director with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) at Southern University in Shreveport. Previously, she was a Business Advisor with the SUSLA SBDC and Dallas Metropolitan SBDC as well.

Within the SBDC, Amanda assists clients in various areas of business development, with a focus on financial statement preparation/analysis, business planning/development, and procurement. Amanda has been a Business Certified Appraiser with the International Society of Business Appraisers since 2018 and has over 15 years experience with Mergers and Acquisitions specifically private, middle market transactions.

Amanda recognizes the importance of collaboration with business owners, local government and community leaders to identify opportunities and initiatives to encourage the presence and retention of businesses in the Northwest Louisiana area. Amanda holds two degrees, Bachelor of Science in Finance (2003) and Master of Business Administration (2012), both received from Louisiana State University in Shreveport, LA.



New Hires & Promotions

Please Welcome!

Roshundra Davis

Director of Marketing & University Relations

Office of Advancement



PLEASE WELCOME!

Jala Rollins

Educational Specialist

Educational Opportunity Center



PLEASE WELCOME!

Henry House

Police Officer 1

University Police

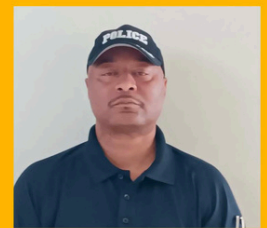


PLEASE WELCOME!

Jason Brown

Police Officer 2

University Police



MILLION DOLLAR MARCH

Are You All In?

The Southern University System Foundation is in the middle of the "Are You All In" initiative as part of this year's Million Dollar March (MDM) Campaign. The campaign runs from May 31, 2024, to August 30, 2024, and aims to encourage alumni and friends to secure philanthropic contributions for the Southern University and A & M College System.

The Million Dollar March Campaign aims to build on the success of previous years by rallying alumni and friends of the Southern University System to contribute generously. The campaign seeks to enhance the university's resources and support for students, faculty, and campus operations, ensuring continued growth and improvement across all departments and campuses. We appreciate the support and participation of all who contribute to this significant fundraising effort.



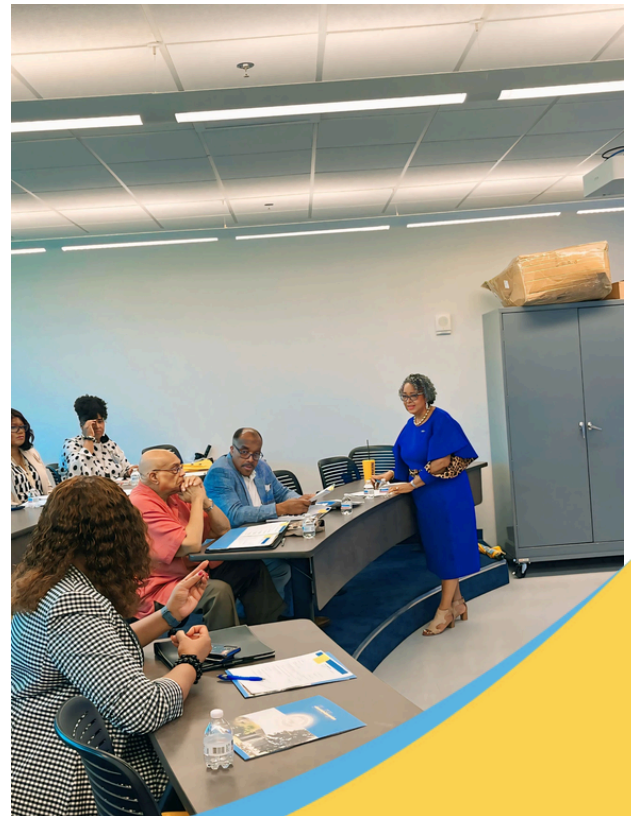
Dr. Gantt along with 57th SGA President Marlon Davenport and 57th Miss SUSLA Loraine Braxton take a moment to challenge faculty, staff, and students to join the MDM campaign by starting with a donation of \$10.

<https://foundation.sus.edu/mdm/>

To watch the video and make your pledge, scan the QR Code.

Strategic Plan Development team

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor at Southern University at Shreveport, leads the charge for the countinous growth of SUSLA in a meeting with her ReImagine SUSLA Strategic Plan Development Team. This dynamic team is supported by campus directors, faculty, and staff, members of Dr. Gantt's transitional team, and respected members of the SU Foundation.



Swearing-In Ceremony For Sheriff Henry L. Whitehorn

We proudly witnessed the swearing-in of Henry L. Whitehorn, Sr. as the newly elected Sheriff of Caddo Parish. Sheriff Whitehorn brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to justice, integrity, and community. As the first African American Sheriff in Caddo Parish history, his leadership marks a significant milestone.

Sheriff Whitehorn's dedication to making Caddo Parish a safe and inclusive community for all was evident in his inaugural address. He emphasized the importance of unity, trust, and collaboration in building a stronger community.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, congratulates Sheriff Whitehorn!



Tony & Tina Williams



Burnadine Anderson
and
Caddo Parish District Attorney
James E. Stewart

Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

Loving Little Ones, a Community Service Event

Loving Little Ones, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the less fortunate remarkable resource fair, held annually in the Shreveport-Bossier City area provides an exceptional opportunity for the community to unite and make a lasting impact on the lives of displaced individuals and families.

Held at the Louisiana State Fairgrounds and on July 26 & 27th, the Pop-Up Shelter connected individuals and families with critical services, including shelter and housing assistance, health and wellness services, employment and job training programs, educational resources, legal aid, and counseling services, as well as food and clothing distribution.

SUSLA was featured as the premiere resource for higher-level education. Dr. Devonye Brown, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and University Recruiter, Darin Turner got a chance to visit with members of the community to promote SUSLA's academic programs and student life during the event.



LSBDC Strategic Planning & Professional Development Conference

The SUSLA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) team attended and participated in the LSBDC Strategic Planning & Professional Development Conference in Lafayette, LA. The week's activities were a whirlwind of strategic planning! Our network spent the week planning, learning, and acquiring wisdom from our State Directors and invited speakers. Some of the topics discussed were: Financial and Budgetary Responsibilities, Programmatic Responsibilities & Management, Client management, and Strategic Planning. "Overall the team focused on ways to better serve our small business clients," stated Shannon Levingston, Training Coordinator.

In attendance from SUSLA:
Amanda Flynn - Interim Director
Pamela Jackson - Business Consultant
Shannon Levingston - Training Coordinator



Street dedication and Community celebration for SUSLA Professor Willie Burton

Professor Burton was a 1962 Booker T. Washington High School graduate who went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Southern University and a Master of Arts Degree from North Carolina Central University.

For 44 years he was the history professor and the head of the social sciences department at Southern University at Shreveport. Burton was a member of the Caddo School Board and later served as President.



Dr. Ray L. Belton

Sylvia Burton



Creating a Culture of Health & Wellness on SUSLA's Campus

Mission Slimpossible is a fitness group at Southern University-Shreveport that includes faculty and staff, dedicated to enhancing mental and physical health. The group emphasizes regular exercise, incorporating activities such as walking, jogging, and cycling to boost fitness levels and overall well-being. Proper nutrition is a cornerstone of the fitness group, with members receiving guidance on healthy eating habits to support their fitness goals. Emotional support is a key component, as members encourage and motivate each other, fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere. They meet several times throughout the week, providing consistent opportunities for physical activity and peer support. This collaborative approach helps create a strong, health-conscious community within the university. By focusing on these key areas, Mission Slimpossible aims to improve the overall health and wellness of its participants.



SUAF National Conference builds the Blueprint

The 2024 Southern University Alumni Federation National Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana allowed fellowship with alums from across the country represented by all five campuses.

This year's conference theme was "The Blueprint: United Together, One System, One Mission, One Voice." Dr. Gantt's participation on this year's panel reflected SUSLA's focus on Dr. Gantt's seven priorities that will assist in the growth of our university.

Workshops and breakout sessions provided opportunities for alumni to engage in meaningful discussions, share their experiences, and brainstorm new ideas.

With the blueprint of one system, one mission, and one voice, the future of Southern University at Shreveport looks brighter than ever.



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