

# *Southern University at Shreveport*

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ANNUAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Volume 2 | Issue 6 | June 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.



# Increasing Enrollment

## Southern University at Shreveport & Bossier Parish Schools Partnership MOU Signing



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) celebrated its new partnership with Bossier Parish Schools through an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing showcase. The partnership aims to expand the Dual Enrollment program at SUSLA to all high schools in Bossier Parish.

### Key Highlights:

- **Partnership Agreement:** The formal signing of the MOU between Bossier Parish Schools and SUSLA marks the beginning of a collaborative effort to provide dual enrollment opportunities for high school students in Bossier Parish.
- **Signatories:**
  - Dr. Aubra Gantt: Chancellor of SUSLA
  - Jason Rowland: Superintendent of Bossier Parish Schools
- **Attendees:**
  - Dr. Veronica McEachin, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Innovation/Director of E-Learning
  - Tonia Haynie, Math Curriculum Coordinator
  - Dr. Tracey Burrell, Supervisor of Recruitment and Retention
  - Dr. Devonye Brown, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
  - Dr. Lonnie McCray, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development
  - Holly George, Supervisor of Special Programs
  - Jeremiah Williams, Supervisor of High School Curriculum
  - Monica McEachin, Dual Enrollment Coordinator
  - Henry Mejia, Science Curriculum Coordinator
  - Thirandar Francis, Educational Advocate

The official signing of the MOU between SUSLA and Bossier Parish Schools represents a significant step in expanding educational opportunities for high school students. This partnership will enable students to gain college credits while still in high school, fostering academic advancement and college readiness. The collaborative effort underscores the commitment of both institutions to enhance educational outcomes and support student success.



# Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

## Dr. Kenie Moses – Panelists “You Belong in STEM”



The U.S. Dept. Of Education hosted a highly impactful webinar titled "Unlocking Math Fun: The Impact and Importance of Engaging Out-of-School Math Time for K-12 Students."

Dr. Kenie Moses, Department Head for Engineering & Technology was invited to join the event as a panelist.

This virtual event underscored the crucial role of out-of-school time (OST) programs in enhancing K-12 students' mathematical proficiency and confidence.

### Key Highlights:

- Objective: The webinar aimed to explore how OST math programs contribute to a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts, promote critical thinking, and foster a lasting love for math.
- Participants: The event featured a distinguished panel of experts, including Dr. Leslie Brooks (Moderator, Afterschool STEM Hub), Dr. Holly Kreider (NAFSCE), Dr. Charli Kemp (Change The Tune), and Dr. Kenie Moses (SUSLA).

### Outcome:

The webinar successfully highlighted the importance of OST math programs and provided valuable insights and strategies for educators, parents, and community leaders. The event fostered a collaborative dialogue on enhancing mathematical education beyond the classroom, aiming to support and uplift K-12 students' learning experiences.

The poster is set against a dark blue background with white mathematical formulas. At the top, it features the U.S. Department of Education logo and the slogan "RAISE THE BAR YOU BELONG IN STEM". Below this, it states "THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRESENTS YOU BELONG IN STEM WEBINAR SERIES". The main title of the webinar is "UNLOCKING MATH FUN: THE IMPACT AND IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING OUT-OF-SCHOOL MATH TIME FOR K-12 STUDENTS". The date and time are listed as "MAY 16, 2024 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET VIRTUAL". A QR code is provided for registration, with the text "Register HERE" below it. The poster also lists the moderator, Leslie Brooks, DVM, and three panelists: Charli Kemp, Ed.L.D., Holly Kreider, Ed.D., and Kenie Moses, Ph.D. Each name is accompanied by a small circular portrait photo.



Priority  
**2**

# Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

## SUSLA Spring Commencement 2024

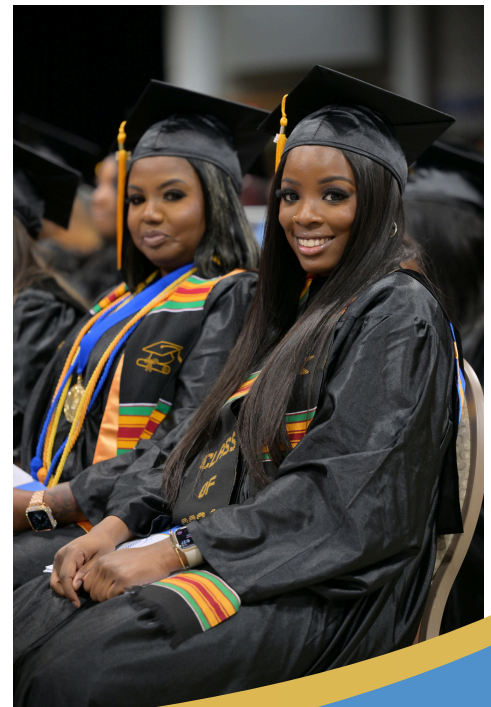


The Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) Spring Commencement 2024 ceremony marked a significant milestone for our institution, celebrating the achievements of our graduating class. The event was highlighted by an inspiring address from State Senator Cleo Fields.

### Key Highlights:

- **Degrees Awarded:** The ceremony conferred 344 degrees to graduates.
- **Dual-Enrollment Graduates:** Among the graduates were 73 dual-enrollment high school students from various regions of Louisiana.
- **Keynote Speaker:** State Senator Cleo Fields delivered a keynote address, offering inspiration and guidance to the graduates.

The success of the Spring Commencement 2024 ceremony is attributed to the unwavering dedication of our faculty and staff. The collective efforts ensured a memorable and impactful ceremony. We take pride in our graduates' accomplishments and are confident in their potential for future success.





## Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

### Southern University at Shreveport PTEC Students at SUBR Commencement Ceremony



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) made history as three of its Process and Petroleum Technology (PTEC) students participated in the Southern University and A&M College - Baton Rouge (SUBR) Commencement Ceremony. This significant event was marked by a memorable commencement speech delivered by Mr. Ronald "Ron" Chandler, Leader of US Education Business at Apple Inc.

Graduates Taliyah Parker, Austin Stewart, and Jaden Martin were offered positions by BP to work offshore and onshore. Parker will serve as an instrument technician, while Stewart and Martin will be process operators. Their starting salaries range from \$75,000 to \$125,000 per year. This achievement highlights the exceptional training and opportunities provided by SUSLA's Process and Petroleum Technology program.





# Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

## Southern University at Shreveport TRiO Upward Bound Academic Component 2023-2024 Highlights

The primary purpose of Southern University at Shreveport's TRiO Educational Talent Search & Upward Bound Programs is to provide fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. We aim to deliver services and opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Our goal is to increase the rate at which our participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from postsecondary education institutions.

### TRiO Upward Bound Natchitoches Highlights



The Upward Bound Natchitoches program celebrated the seniors' accomplishments and marked the end of the academic year with two memorable events. At the senior celebration, Dr. Jacoby Tubbs delivered an inspiring speech at Mariner's Restaurant. Each senior participated in a photo shoot to commemorate the colleges they will attend and received certificates and gifts recognizing their hard work and dedication.

The Cane River Tour and Awards Luncheon provided a delightful way to close out the academic year. Participants enjoyed a scenic tour of the Cane River, followed by a cozy and inviting awards luncheon at Trail Boss Steakhouse, where Mrs. Kenesha Coats, a program teacher, delivered a special speech. These events successfully combined celebration, recognition, and relaxation, providing a fitting conclusion to the academic year.

### TRiO Upward Bound North Highlights

TRiO Upward Bound North celebrated program participants with two banquets. On May 4, 2024, all students were recognized for their participation throughout the academic component, as well as their achievements on the ACT and teacher-recommended awards. The program had 12 graduating seniors who completed their high school diplomas and are prepared for post-secondary education in the fall of 2024. The 2nd Annual Senior Walk/Senior Signing Day was held on May 11, 2024, at Southern University at Shreveport, where two Booker T. Washington High School seniors earned their Associate Degree through the SUSLA Early College program. The TRiO Upward Bound North staff wish all graduating seniors the very best as they transition to post-secondary education.



# Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

## Southern University at Shreveport TRiO Upward Bound

### TRiO Upward Bound Sabine Highlights

Upward Bound Sabine celebrated its 3rd graduation brunch with an elegant event hosted by Mrs. Angela. The theme was "We believed we could, so we did." Program Director Cheryle Wheeler-Johnson highlighted the program's achievements and future goals.

Six of twelve graduates attended and received personalized mugs and graduation supplies. Vision board winners were Paris Williams and Chastity Smith (1st Place), Taylor Gasaway (2nd Place), and Kyla Campbell (3rd Place). Taylor Gasaway also performed "Because of Who You Are."

Dr. Tomika Hardy delivered a motivational speech on turning "tragedies to triumph." The event concluded with a video presentation of "Believe" by Fantasia, awards, senior reflections, and remarks on the upcoming Summer Component.



### TRiO Upward Bound South Highlights



TRiO Upward Bound South host their 2023-2024 End of Year Celebration on May 2, 2024 at Shreveport Riverview Hall. It was their goal to celebrate the participant's success during the year. Dr. Jacoby Tubbs, Executive Director of TRiO Pre-College Programs at Southern University Shreveport was the guest speaker. His message was motivating and powerful, he told them do not let the negative past stop you from reaching your goals, do not say no just not now. He emphasized that our young people are not only our future leaders but they have so much to offer right now, in the present and be the change you want to see in the world.



# Attract Qualified Educators & Professionals and Retain Talented Employees

## New Hires & Promotions

Please Welcome!

**John Lane**

**Clinical Coordinator**

**EMT- Paramedic**



Please Welcome!

**Jessica Boagni-Rossum**

**Social Media Communications Strategist**

**Office of Advancement**



Please Welcome

**Tameika Phill**

**Administrative Assistant 4**

**Nursing**



PLEASE WELCOME!

**Daniel Corona**

**Educational Advocate**

**Upward Bound Desoto-Red River**



PLEASE WELCOME!

**Dr. Dessie Sanders**

**English Instructor**

**AHSSE**



## *Promoting a Culture of Institutional Effectiveness:*

### **Million Dollar March Campaign Kickoff**

The Southern University System Foundation is launching the "Are You All In" initiative as part of this year's Million Dollar March (MDM) Campaign Kickoff. The campaign will run 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.

**Key Highlights:**

- Campaign Details:
  - Kickoff Date: May 31, 2024
  - End Date: August 30, 2024
  - Supporters can contribute through the customized Give Day link or the QR code.

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.





## Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

### Campus Police: Unified Training

A collaborative training session was held for Police Chiefs and their assistants from several institutions, including LSU Shreveport, Centenary College of Louisiana, Bossier Parish Community College, Northwestern State University, Grambling State University, and LSU Health Shreveport. SUSLA was represented by Captain Ivey and Officer Howard.

#### Key Highlights:

- Participants: The session included Police Chiefs and their assistants from multiple institutions, fostering a collaborative environment for knowledge sharing.
- Objective: The primary goal was to enhance communication and coordination across campuses to improve community safety.



# Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

## AmeriCorps Seniors: SUSLA Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) hosted the 44th Annual Service Award Recognition Luncheon for the Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program (FGP) in celebration of AmeriCorps Week. The event honored the dedication and service of Foster Grandparents.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Award Ceremony:**
  - FGP of the Year 2024 Awards: Outstanding volunteers were recognized, with the crowning of the FGP of the Year.
  - Presenters: Dr. Aubra Gantt and Dr. Lonnie McCray played key roles in presenting the awards.
- **Program Partners and Community Partners:**
  - Willis Knighton Health System Inc.
  - Caddo/Bossier Elementary Schools:
    - Westwood-Caddo Heights
    - Eighty-first Street-Midway
    - Plantation Park-Queensborough
    - Sunset Acres-North Caddo/Middle
    - Magnolia School of Excellence Lower Campus
  - Caddo Community Action Agency Head Start Program
  - Caddo Parish Schools
  - Beyond Homeless Summer Camp
  - City of Shreveport Community SPAR Centers Summer Camps



The luncheon successfully honored the contributions of the Foster Grandparents, celebrating their dedication to community service and their impact on local schools and programs. The event underscored the importance of collaboration with program and community partners in supporting the Foster Grandparent Program, highlighting SUSLA's ongoing commitment to community engagement and volunteerism.





## Memorial Day Events: Health Fair

In honor of Memorial Day, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) hosted the "Swing into Health" event, in collaboration with the National Institute of Health All of Us Research Program, LaVetCorp, and Shreveport Swing with Style. The event focused on educating seniors and veterans on healthier living.

The "Swing into Health" event was a success, effectively combining style, community, and health education. It fostered a sense of community and provided valuable health insights to seniors and veterans. The collaboration with various partners was instrumental in the event's success. We extend our gratitude to all attendees and contributors.



## **Memorial Day Events: Veterans/Military Appreciation Month Program**

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) hosted a special program to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of military members and veterans. The event brought the community together to celebrate the brave men and women who have served and are serving our country.

### **Key Highlights:**

- **Objective:** To honor and recognize the sacrifices and contributions of military members and veterans.
- **Community Engagement:** The event united the community in celebration and appreciation of military personnel.
- **Recognition:** Acknowledgment of the bravery and dedication of the armed forces.

The program successfully honored and celebrated military members and veterans, underscoring the importance of their contributions. It fostered a sense of unity and appreciation within the community, reinforcing SUSLA's commitment to honoring military personnel.





## Cultivating Relationships Between Faculty and Staff

### SUSLA Employee Appreciation BBQ

The Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) Employee Appreciation BBQ, hosted by Chancellor Gantt, was a successful event celebrating and recognizing our dedicated employees. The day featured various activities, including diverse food options, games, dancing, and prize giveaways.

#### Key Highlights:

- Objective: To celebrate employees, enhance team cohesion, and strengthen community spirit.
- Activities: High-quality food, engaging games, continuous music, dancing, and numerous prize distributions.

The BBQ fostered a positive atmosphere of celebration and team building. It was well-received by attendees and underscored the importance of recognizing employee contributions. The organizing committee's efforts were crucial to the event's success.



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**Dr. Devonye Brown**  
**Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**  
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*The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the Office of the Chancellor*

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