

# Chancellor's Report

February 2026



# 20 REIMAGINE 30 SUSLA

## 7 Strategic Goals

**Goal 1**

**Foster a Climate of Academic Excellence**

**Goal 2**

**Increase Enrollment**

**Goal 3**

**Enhance Customer Service & Stewardship of Place**

**Goal 4**

**Adopt a Student-Centered Approach**

**Goal 5**

**Attract and Retain Qualified Faculty and Staff**

**Goal 6**

**Promote a Culture of Institutional Effectiveness**

**Goal 7**

**Improve Infrastructure, Facilities, Finance, and Resources**

# CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



February represents a pivotal point in the Spring 2026 semester as Southern University at Shreveport continues to advance Reimagine SUSLA 2030 with discipline and purpose. I am pleased to report sustained progress in student engagement, academic excellence, workforce preparation, and community impact.

The semester launched with a strategically designed Spring 2026 Welcome Week that connected students early to academic resources, co-curricular opportunities, and campus leadership. Our commitment to workforce readiness was further demonstrated through the Medical Laboratory Technician and Phlebotomy Pinning Ceremony, recognizing graduates prepared to enter high-demand healthcare fields with competence and professionalism.

We also honored legacy and leadership through the Frank Taylor Jr. Memorial Scholarship and demonstrated institutional resilience during Winter Storm Fern, maintaining essential operations and direct support for students.

Together, these efforts reflect an institution aligned around strategy, accountability, and outcomes. As the semester progresses, our focus remains clear: executing Reimagine SUSLA 2030 with precision in service of every student.

One Vision. One Purpose. One SUSLA. Every Student.

Warm regards,

**Dr. Aubra J. Gantt**  
Chancellor

# Spring 2026 Welcome Week: Advancing Student Engagement

Southern University at Shreveport successfully welcomed students to campus for Spring 2026 Semester Welcome Week, held January 12–16, 2026. The week-long celebration was designed to help students connect, get involved, and begin the semester with confidence.

Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of activities, including an on-the-go breakfast, a spirited pep rally, creative events, wellness sessions, and social experiences. These events provided opportunities for students to explore campus resources, meet fellow Jaguars, and engage with the university community.

Spring 2026 Semester Welcome Week set a positive tone for the semester and helped foster connections that support student success. SUSLA thanks all students, faculty, and staff who participated and helped make Welcome Week a meaningful and memorable experience.



# Medical Lab Technician (MLT) and Phlebotomy Pinning Ceremony

On January 22, 2026, Southern University at Shreveport recognized ten graduates of its Medical Laboratory Technician and Phlebotomy programs during a formal pinning ceremony held in the Alphonse Jackson Building. This milestone marked the culmination of rigorous academic and clinical preparation aligned with Goal 4: Adopt a Student-centered Approach grounded in workforce outcomes.

Attendees were inspired by the keynote address delivered by Dr. Rhalanda Jackson, who shared insights and encouragement for the graduates stepping into vital positions with the medical field. Kudos to Associate Professor Patricia Brown, Program Director, Casey Cocherell, Instructor and dedicated adjunct faculty.

The ceremony underscored the effectiveness of SUSLA's allied health programs in preparing student to enter high-demand healthcare professions with technical competence and professional discipline.



# Frank Taylor Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Southern University at Shreveport awarded the Frank Taylor Jr. Memorial Scholarship to DeMarcus Myers, an Engineering Technology major, in recognition of his academic achievement and demonstrated leadership potential. The scholarship honors the legacy of Frank Taylor Jr., a distinguished SUSLA alumnus whose service exemplified student advocacy and institutional leadership.

During his tenure at Southern University at Shreveport, Mr. Taylor served as Student Government Association President and as the student representative to the Southern University System Board of Supervisors. He earned an associate degree in Engineering Technology and remained a dedicated advocate for student success and higher education throughout his career.

This award reflects SUSLA's continued commitment to identifying and supporting students who embody leadership, service, and academic excellence, while reinforcing the institution's investment in developing the next generation of leaders aligned with its mission and strategic priorities.



# Leadership Presence During Winter Storm Fern

During Winter Storm Fern, Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt conducted an on-site walkthrough with facilities staff to assess campus conditions and ensure continuity of operations. During the Chancellor engaged directly with students remaining on campus, essential personnel, and student leaders, reinforcing institutional accountability and student well-being during adverse conditions. Chancellor Gantt connected with the Student Government Association President, Kyndryck Green, Miss SUSLA, Nia Brown and students for “Pizza with the Chancellor” at the Jaguar Courtyard Housing Complex.

The response reflected SUSLA’s operational readiness, leadership presence, and commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive campus environment.



# National Recognition for AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program



Southern University at Shreveport's AmeriCorps Seniors Caddo/Bossier/DeSoto Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program received national recognition as one of only three awardees nationwide in the AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program 60th Anniversary Media Challenge, commemorating six decades of service (1965–2025).

Led by Neva Jones, Program Director, the award-winning submission documented the program's sustained impact and strong stakeholder engagement across Caddo, Bossier, and DeSoto parishes. The submission highlighted data-driven outcomes, non-federal match support, and alignment with Louisiana Department of Education and local school system priorities—reinforcing the program's credibility and long-term sustainability.

During the most recent year, 53 Foster Grandparents in Caddo/Bossier contributed more than 55,000 service hours across 25 sites, representing an estimated \$1.6 million in service value, while 37 Foster Grandparents in DeSoto Parish provided more than 38,000 hours across nine sites, valued at approximately \$1.1 million. Beyond these measurable contributions, volunteers provide consistent academic, social, and emotional support that strengthens classrooms and school communities.

This national distinction affirms SUSLA's role as a trusted community partner and underscores the Foster Grandparent Program's enduring legacy, measurable impact, and continued alignment with Reimagine SUSLA 2030.

# SUSLA Students Chart Future Success at Inspirational Vision Board Night

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) students gathered in the vibrant Jaguar Courtyard for an engaging Vision Board Night, designed to help them visualize and plan their academic and personal goals for the future.

The courtyard transformed into a hub of creativity, as students armed with magazines, glue, and poster boards meticulously crafted visual representations of their aspirations. The event aimed to inspire students to set clear objectives for their academic careers, personal growth, and future professional paths.

The atmosphere was filled with focused energy and collaborative spirit as students shared ideas and encouraged one another. Participants discussed dreams ranging from graduation and career placement to personal wellness and community involvement, translating these ambitions into tangible images and words.

This initiative underscores SUSLA's commitment to supporting student success not just academically, but also in fostering personal development and a clear vision for the future. The Vision Board Night left students inspired and equipped with a visual roadmap for achieving their dreams as they Reimagine SUSLA.



**SUSLA**  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA  
*Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service*

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OUR HERITAGE: THE STRONG FOUNDATION FOR A THRIVING TOMORROW

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



OUR HERITAGE: THE STRONG FOUNDATION FOR A THRIVING TOMORROW

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

### **Black History Questions**

Activity: Students can pick up questions from the Library Circulation Desk to test their knowledge.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

**Vision Board Event** (Jaguar Courtyard)  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

**All Day: Mardi Gras Trivia** (Jaguar Courtyard)  
**All Day: 90s Dress Theme Day** (Jaguar Courtyard)  
**Open Mic Night:**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Jaguar Courtyard)

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

**Black History Questions**  
Activity: Students can pick up questions from the Library Circulation Desk to test their knowledge.

**All Day: Pink & Red Fit Check Day** (Jaguar Courtyard)

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

**Black History Questions**  
Activity: Students can pick up questions from the Library Circulation Desk to test their knowledge.

**Affirmations and Compliments Wall**  
(Jaguar Courtyard)

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

**Black History Questions**  
Activity: Students can pick up questions from the Library Circulation Desk to test their knowledge.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

**All Day: Love Song Lyrics Trivia** (Jaguar Courtyard)  
**Build Your Own Bouquet** (Jaguar Courtyard)

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

**King Cake Tasting** (Jaguar Courtyard)  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

**Film Screenings**  
10:00 AM: "Freedom Riders"  
2:00 PM: "Tell Them We Are Rising"

**Vibe & Color** (Jaguar Courtyard)  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Student-led Black History Commemoration Reading**  
9:30 AM - Jackson Building

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

**All Day: Black History Trivia**  
**Black Culture Bingo**  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (Jaguar Courtyard)

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

**All Day: Black Out Fit Check**  
(Jaguar Courtyard)  
**"Rock Your African Attire" week**

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

**Movie Night - "Hidden Figures"**  
(Jaguar Courtyard)  
6:00 PM

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

**"Rock Your African Attire" week**

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

**"Rock Your African Attire" week**

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**20**  
REIMAGINE  
**SUSLA**

**ALUMNI**



**GIVE TODAY**



**APPLY NOW**

