

Chancellor's Report

June/July 2026



2030 REIMAGINE 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



Greetings,

Summer at Southern University at Shreveport has been marked by growth, innovation, and measurable impact. From celebrating a record number of graduates (including 129 dual enrollment graduates) to securing strategic investments that expand opportunities for our students, these past two months reflect the momentum created through our commitment to student success, workforce development, and community engagement.

This period brought several significant achievements, including a \$35,000 grant from the Community Foundation of North Louisiana to support first-time students and a transformative \$150,000 investment through a partnership between Willis-Knighton Health and the Roy Griggs School of Business, Inc. These investments strengthen our ability to provide access, enhance academic programs, and prepare students for success in an evolving workforce.

Our commitment to excellence was further demonstrated by the Respiratory Therapy Program's 100% certification exam pass rate and 100% employment rate for graduates. We also continued to invest in the future through initiatives such as the Healthcare Heroes Camp, which introduced young learners to high-demand healthcare careers, while wellness programs and community events enriched the student experience.

Beyond the classroom, SUSLA remained dedicated to serving and engaging our community. Through celebrations such as the 2026 Juneteenth: Rooted in Legacy event, we honored our shared history, celebrated cultural heritage, and strengthened the connections that unite our campus and community.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report demonstrate the impact of strategic partnerships, dedicated faculty and staff, and the resilience and determination of our students. Together, we are creating opportunities, transforming lives, and advancing the mission of Southern University at Shreveport.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. A. J. Gantt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "J".

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt
Chancellor

\$35,000 Gift to Promote Student Success

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is proud to announce the receipt of a \$35,000 grant from the Community Foundation of North Louisiana to support first-time students and strengthen pathways to academic success.

The investment will provide funding for student GAP Scholarships, helping to reduce financial barriers and increase access to higher education for students who may otherwise face challenges in pursuing their educational goals. By supporting first-time students, the grant advances SUSLA's commitment to student retention, persistence, and degree completion.

The grant was presented by Garrett Johnson, Grants Officer for the Community Foundation of North Louisiana, whose continued efforts help connect valuable community resources to initiatives that positively impact students and families across the region.

"The Community Foundation of North Louisiana continues to be an invaluable partner in expanding educational opportunities for our students," said Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of SUSLA. "This investment will help ensure that more students have the resources and support needed to begin their college journey and remain on the path to graduation."

The Community Foundation of North Louisiana is dedicated to connecting people, resources, and ideas to improve the quality of life throughout the region. Through strategic investments in education and community initiatives, the Foundation helps create opportunities that strengthen individuals, families, and communities.

SUSLA extends its sincere appreciation to Kristi Gustavson, Chief Executive Officer; Garrett Johnson, Grants Officer; and the Community Foundation of North Louisiana Board of Directors for their continued partnership and commitment to educational access and student success.

The University also recognizes the dedicated efforts of the Office of Institutional Advancement, whose work in cultivating relationships and securing external resources continues to create new opportunities for students and strengthen the institution's mission.

This investment reflects a shared commitment to expanding educational access and supporting student achievement. Through partnerships such as this, SUSLA continues to create opportunities for students to achieve their academic goals, enter the workforce prepared for success, and contribute to the growth and prosperity of Northwest Louisiana.



Strategic Partnership between Willis-Knighton Health and Roy Griggs School of Business, Inc.

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is delighted to announce a transformative partnership between Willis-Knighton Health and the Roy Griggs School of Business, Inc. This collaboration, marked by a substantial \$150,000 investment, symbolizes a shared commitment to advancing education and fostering community development.



This significant investment is more than just a financial contribution; it represents a pledge to the future of our community. By creating pathways to success for students at SUSLA's Roy Griggs School of Business, this partnership ensures that graduates are fully equipped to meet the demands of an ever-evolving economy.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of SUSLA, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership: "We are excited about the collaboration between Willis-Knighton Health and the Roy Griggs School of Business, Inc. This investment underscores the collective dedication to educational excellence and workforce readiness."

The partnership aims to enhance educational offerings, provide robust training opportunities and prepare students at the SUSLA Roy Griggs School of business for leadership roles in various industries. By focusing on skill development and innovation, SUSLA seeks to empower students and contribute meaningfully to regional economic growth.

Willis-Knighton Health President & CEO Jaf Fielder remarked, "Our collaboration with Roy Griggs School of Business, Inc. reflects our commitment to supporting education and community well-being. We are honored to play a role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow."

Roy Griggs, President of RGSB, Inc., added, "Investing in education is investing in our future. Together, we are building a brighter tomorrow for our students and our community."

This partnership is a testament to the community's ongoing mission to reimagine education. With the support of Willis-Knighton Health and the Roy Griggs School of Business, SUSLA continues to lead the way in educational development and community engagement.



Respiratory Therapy Program Achieves 100% Pass Rate and 100% Graduate Employment



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) proudly announces that its Respiratory Therapy Program has achieved a remarkable 100% employment rate and a perfect 100% pass rate on the Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) Examination. These outstanding accomplishments highlight the program's commitment to excellence in education and its focus on preparing students for successful careers in healthcare.

The TMC Examination, administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), serves as the primary credentialing test for respiratory therapists. It determines eligibility for the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credentials. Achieving a 100% pass rate on this rigorous examination demonstrates the program's effective curriculum and the dedication of its faculty and students.

"Our students have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to academic excellence and professional growth," said Contika Shyne, Program Director of Respiratory Therapy. "Achieving a 100% pass rate and 100% employment rate reflects not only the hard work of our students, but also the dedication of our faculty, clinical partners, and support staff who work together to ensure every graduate is prepared to succeed."

The Respiratory Therapy Program at SUSLA is designed to provide students with a comprehensive education, combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on training. This approach ensures that graduates are well-prepared to meet the demands of the healthcare industry and provide exceptional care to patients.

"These outcomes are a testament to the dedication of our students, the expertise of our faculty, and the strength of our academic programs," said Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport. "We are proud to prepare graduates who are workforce-ready on day one and equipped to make meaningful contributions to the healthcare profession."

As the demand for qualified respiratory therapists continues to grow, SUSLA's program stands out as a leader in training professionals who are ready to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

Healthcare Heroes: Dreams to Degrees Summer Camp Inspires Future Healthcare Professionals



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently hosted its Healthcare Heroes Camp: Dreams to Degrees, an immersive summer experience designed to introduce students to high-demand healthcare careers while building the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Made possible through funding provided by the Caddo Parish Commission, the four-day camp engaged 25 students in grades 8–12 at the Metro Center's Polysomnography lab. The program focused on Polysomnography (Sleep Technology), a rapidly growing healthcare field dedicated to diagnosing and treating sleep disorders, while exposing participants to a variety of healthcare career pathways available through SUSLA.

Under the leadership of Colton Wiggins, Program Director of Polysomnography, participants explored healthcare careers through interactive demonstrations, sleep study simulations, patient monitoring activities, and team-based problem-solving exercises. Students gained hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment and learned how healthcare professionals use technology and clinical expertise to improve patient outcomes.

One of the camp's most significant achievements was that all 25 participants earned CPR Basic Life Support (BLS) certification, equipping them with valuable lifesaving skills and an industry-recognized credential.

"Healthcare Heroes Camp is about more than introducing students to a career field—it's about helping them envision themselves as future healthcare professionals," said Colton Wiggins, Program Director of Polysomnography. "Through hands-on experiences and direct engagement with healthcare faculty and students, participants gain confidence, knowledge, and a greater understanding of the opportunities available to them in the healthcare industry."

In addition to learning about sleep technology, participants explored a variety of healthcare pathways through presentations and activities led by faculty from SUSLA's Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, and Health Information Technology programs. Students also collaborated on real-world healthcare scenarios and developed public awareness messages promoting healthy sleep habits and overall wellness.

The Healthcare Heroes Camp advances SUSLA's strategic priorities of workforce development, student engagement, and community impact. By connecting students with emerging career opportunities and providing meaningful educational experiences, SUSLA continues to inspire future healthcare professionals while helping address critical workforce needs across the region.



SUSLA Jaguars Embrace Healthy Living

"Lunch Bike Ride Edition"



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently hosted a lively "Lunch Bike Ride Edition" as part of its Wellness Wednesday initiative, proving that the Louisiana heat couldn't deter the spirit of the SUSLA Jaguars. This event provided students with an enjoyable opportunity to stay active while exploring the campus on two wheels.

The "Lunch Bike Ride Edition" is designed to encourage students to take a break from their academic routines and engage in physical activity while enjoying the outdoors. Participants embraced the warm weather, cycling through the beautiful grounds of SUSLA, fostering a sense of community and connection among peers.

This initiative reflects SUSLA's ongoing commitment to promoting a healthy mind, body, and lifestyle. By offering fun, engaging activities, the university encourages overall wellness and well-being for its students.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, highlighted the importance of such initiatives: "At SUSLA, we believe that maintaining a healthy lifestyle is crucial for student success. Programs like the 'Lunch Bike Ride Edition' not only promote fitness but also support mental well-being by allowing students to connect with each other outside of the classroom."

The Wellness Wednesday initiative is just one example of how SUSLA is dedicated to fostering a vibrant campus culture that prioritizes health and wellness. The university continues to explore new ways to support students in balancing their academic responsibilities with a healthy and active lifestyle.

With events like this, SUSLA is paving the way for a community that values health, camaraderie and personal growth. Students are encouraged to participate in future Wellness Wednesday activities as the university strives to create an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

Preparing to Save Lives: Opioid Preparedness Training

Southern University at Shreveport's University Police Department hosted an informative Opioid Preparedness Training session for faculty and staff on the main campus. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing community health and safety.

The training was designed to increase awareness of opioid misuse, educate participants on recognizing the signs of an opioid overdose, and provide crucial information on prevention strategies, response protocols, and available community resources.

Ms. Yolanda Duckworth, the Opioid Coordinator for Region 7 with the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, led the session. Her expertise provided faculty and staff with valuable insights and practical tools to effectively address opioid-related emergencies.

"This training is vital in equipping our team with the knowledge needed to respond effectively to opioid-related incidents," said Capt. Jeffery Ivey, University Police. "By understanding the risks and recognizing the signs of an overdose, we can work together to create a safer environment for our students and staff."

Southern University at Shreveport remains dedicated to fostering a safe, healthy, and informed campus environment through educational initiatives and collaborative community partnerships. Events like the Opioid Preparedness Training highlight our proactive approach in addressing pressing health issues and supporting the well-being of our community.



AI and Workforce Transformation at Global Energy Transition Event



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) showcased its leadership in workforce development at the Global Energy Transition (GET) event in The Woodlands, Texas, on May 28, 2026. Dr. John K. Galiotos, Dean of Workforce Development, delivered a compelling presentation on "AI & Career Transition: Energy & LNG – Current and Future Trends and Opportunities."

Dr. Galiotos explored the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on the energy sector, focusing on workforce development and career transitions. His session engaged professionals from various industries, emphasizing the significance of digital literacy, adaptability and lifelong learning in the evolving Energy 4.0 landscape.

Attendees gained insights into utilizing AI to enhance resumes, improve professional branding, and tap into career opportunities within LNG, petrochemical and clean energy sectors. Dr. Galiotos stressed the importance of continuous learning and data-driven decision-making as essential skills for future success.

The event aligned with SUSLA's Strategic Plan 2025–2030 by promoting workforce innovation, strengthening industry partnerships, and expanding regional impact. Through engagements such as GET, SUSLA positions itself as a leader in workforce transformation and industry-responsive education.

Dr. Galiotos' participation underscores SUSLA's mission to empower individuals and drive economic growth through education, innovation, and strategic collaboration.





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GOAL 5
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Gray DI Professional Development Training

Strategic Institutional Planning

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), along with faculty and staff, recently participated in the Gray Decision Intelligence Program training held at Sam's Town Hotel & Casino. This professional development experience equipped SUSLA educators and administrators with enhanced knowledge and tools to support data-informed decision-making across the institution.

The Gray Decision Intelligence Program focuses on leveraging analytics, software platforms, and structured processes to improve strategic planning and operational effectiveness in higher education. During the training, participants explored how data can be used to guide program development, optimize enrollment strategies, allocate resources more efficiently, and strengthen financial planning in a rapidly evolving educational environment.

In addition to technical competencies, the training emphasized effective time management and workflow practices that help institutions respond proactively to changing student needs, market demands, and institutional priorities. By integrating data-driven insights into daily operations and long-term planning, SUSLA leaders are better positioned to support student success and institutional growth.

Initiatives such as the Gray Decision Intelligence training reflect Southern University at Shreveport's ongoing commitment to learning, growth, and innovation. By investing in professional development for its faculty and staff, SUSLA continues to advance its capacity to provide exceptional educational opportunities, strengthen organizational effectiveness, and deliver high-quality services and resources to its students and the broader community.



Rooted in Legacy: Juneteenth Celebration **GOAL 6**

Strengthens Student and Community Connections

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently hosted its 2026 Juneteenth: Rooted in Legacy Celebration, bringing together students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members for a meaningful day of reflection, cultural appreciation, and engagement. Designed to honor the significance of Juneteenth while fostering learning and connection, the event provided students with opportunities to explore African American history, celebrate cultural heritage, and engage with community organizations committed to education, wellness, and civic involvement.

Through live performances, interactive exhibits, community resources, and cultural programming, students experienced firsthand the importance of preserving history while recognizing their role in shaping the future. Featured performances included a powerful spoken word presentation by Mo Hicks and a captivating violin performance by Jay Brown, both of which inspired reflection on resilience, achievement, and cultural expression.

"Juneteenth is more than a celebration of history, it is an opportunity to educate, engage, and empower our students," said Thirandar Francis, Coordinator for the 2026 Juneteenth Celebration.

The event also created opportunities for students to connect with local organizations, explore community resources, and engage in conversations about leadership, civic responsibility, and cultural awareness. By bridging campus and community, the celebration reinforced SUSLA's commitment to developing well-rounded graduates who are prepared to make meaningful contributions both professionally and personally.

Event Highlights

- Student-centered cultural and educational programming
- Opportunities to engage with community organizations and resources
- Live performances celebrating African American history and culture
- Strengthened campus-community connections
- Promotion of civic engagement, leadership, and cultural awareness

The 2026 Juneteenth: Rooted in Legacy Celebration reflects SUSLA's ongoing commitment to student engagement, cultural enrichment, and community partnership. By creating spaces for learning, dialogue, and celebration, SUSLA continues to foster an environment where students are empowered to honor the past, embrace the present, and lead into the future.

2026 Juneteenth: Rooted in Legacy Celebration



2026 Juneteenth: Rooted in Legacy Celebration



C 2026 SPRING COMMENCEMENT



2026 SPRING COMMENCEMENT





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