



SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY
at Shreveport

Chancellor's Report



HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION,
AND RECREATION COMPLEX

GROUNDBREAKING
Ceremony

September 2025

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on recent weeks at Southern University at Shreveport, I am filled with pride and excitement about the vibrant activities and milestones achieved by our campus community.

We kicked-off the semester with a successful Welcome Week, welcoming new students and engaging them with resources that will support their academic and personal success.

The successful of “Are You In?” campaign continues to inspire involvement and school pride across our campus. I am proud to share that SUSLA made history during Giving Day, raising the highest amount of funds ever in a single day. This achievement is a testament to the incredible generosity and support of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

We also celebrated another major milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony for our new Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Complex. This state-of-the-art facility will provide expanded opportunities for athletics, wellness, and community engagement.

Further community-focused initiatives included the Adopt-a-Road program’s Dedication Ceremony, reaffirming our commitment to service and campus pride. Additionally, our voter registration drive was a collaborative effort between the Shreveport Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the League of Women Voters of Caddo-Bossier, and SUSLA, aimed at fostering civic engagement among our students and staff, empowering them to participate actively in the democratic process.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to advance the mission of SUSLA—educating, empowering, and enriching our community.

Together, we are Reimagining SUSLA.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt
Chancellor

WELCOME WEEK

This week marked an exciting kick-off to the new academic year at Southern University at Shreveport as students began their first day of classes. The campus was energized with anticipation, welcoming both new students and returning learners back to their educational journey.

Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of engaging activities designed to build community and foster campus spirit. These included tie-dye shirts making, a wellness expo, We Eat Wednesday: Jaguar Lunch Social, movie night, the SGA Interest Meeting, Jaguar Scavenger Hunt, Game Night, and Jaguar Spirit and Field Day. Faculty, staff, and volunteers were on hand to support students, helping them settle into their classrooms and navigate campus life. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm, eagerness, and the promise of new opportunities.

These activities reaffirm SUSLA's commitment to creating a supportive environment where students can excel both academically and personally. As they embark on this new chapter, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, and SUSLA's faculty and staff look forward to a successful and inspiring year ahead.



ARE YOU IN CAMPAIGN

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) celebrated a hugely successful “Are You In?” Give Day, which not only met but surpassed \$250,000 fundraising goal. The campaign brought together alumni, community partners, students, and supporters to invest in the university’s future.

Leading up to the event, several exciting promotional activities took place. Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt visited KTBS News 3 to discuss the campaign, emphasizing the importance of giving back to support student success. Additionally, Cheryl Taylor, Chief Advancement Officer, and Tralicia Allen, Director of Marketing and University Relations, visited KOKA Radio to promote the “Are You In?” campaign, engaging with the community and encouraging support.

“Give Day” was filled with great energy and engagement. Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt also participated in a panel discussion for presidents and chancellors on the Baton Rouge campus, highlighting the university’s leadership and commitment to community engagement. Furthermore, Laqunisha McCoy, a SUSLA student traveled to participate in the Student Philanthropy and Leadership Panel, showcasing the impact of giving on student development.

Each campus shared live updates, amplifying the campaign’s reach and excitement. Each Southern University campus contributed to the momentum by conducting live segments from their respective locations. At SUSLA, the festivities kicked-off in the Alphonse Jackson Jr. Foyer with compelling interviews featuring faculty, staff, students, and business leaders such as Mr. Roy Griggs, an entrepreneur; Mr. Matthew Valliere, CEO of CareSouth; and Ms. Kabrina Smith, CareSouth’s Chief Operations Officer.

The funds raised will support a variety of impactful projects across SUSLA, focusing on student success, academic innovation, health initiatives, and community wellness. This overwhelming community response underscores the collective belief in SUSLA’s mission and its vital role as both an educational institution and a community cornerstone.

The success of “Are You In?” demonstrates the power of community support in shaping the future of higher education and community health, affirming SUSLA’s commitment to fostering leaders and driving innovation for generations to come.

ARE YOU IN CAMPAIGN



2025 WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Southern University at Shreveport Chancellor, was honored as one of seven recipients of the 2025 Women of Excellence Award, presented by the Beta Omega Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated. "Visionaries, Making Good Trouble" was the theme. The event was attended by members of the SUSLA family, who came out in support of Dr. Gantt. Congratulations to Dr. Gantt on this well-deserved recognition!





SUSLA SUNDAY

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) proudly celebrated SUSLA Sunday with a heartfelt fellowship at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Led by Pastor Joe R. Gant, Jr., the event brought together Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt, faculty, staff, and students in a spirit of unity and community engagement.

During the service, the guest speaker, Roy King II shared the importance of pressing forward even when you can't see. Dr. Gantt expressed her appreciation for the support from the church community and highlighted SUSLA's ongoing commitment to empowering students and strengthening partnerships within the region.

In addition to the fellowship, the day also provided a valuable recruitment opportunity for us. A table was set up outside the sanctuary, filled with information about the university and accompanied by giveaways, to introduce the congregation to our programs and campus life. This event helped us connect with the local faith community and promote educational opportunities. It emphasized shared values of service, education, and community development, thereby strengthening our relationship with the faith community and encouraging future collaborations.



Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Tuesday, September 9, 2025, the Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) community celebrated a historic milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Complex. The event was presided over by Kenneth Dawson, Director of SU System Facilities Planning.

The ceremony featured inspiring speeches from Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor Southern University at Shreveport, as well as prominent leaders including President Dennis J. Shields, SU System Board of Supervisors, and notable officials such as Caddo Parish Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, SU System Board of Supervisors member; Mr. Myron K. Lawson, SU System Board of Supervisors member; Shreveport Mayor Tom Arceneaux, and State Senator Sam Jenkins. Their words emphasized the importance of this new facility to the community and to the university's future.

The community turned out in strong support for the occasion, with distinguished attendees including Zazell V. Dudley, SU System Board of Supervisors member; Victor Thomas and Greg Young, Caddo Parish Commissioners; Tabatha Taylor, City Council Chairwoman; Tari Bradford, Special Advisor to the Mayor of the City of Shreveport; Dottie Bell and Mary Trammell - members of the Caddo Parish School Board; Mr. Quinton Aught, representative from Congressman Cleo Fields' office; State Representative Joy Walters; James Jefferson, Shreveport City Marshall; Tony Hunter, Caddo Parish Constable; retired longtime Southern University Men's Basketball Coach David Francis, and several faculty, staff, students, and local residents. Together, they gathered to witness the ceremonial groundbreaking, officially marking the start of this exciting new project.

This groundbreaking signifies an important step forward for SUSLA and the surrounding community, promising enhanced educational and recreational opportunities in the years to come.



Groundbreaking Ceremony



Groundbreaking Ceremony



Adopt A Road

Following the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, the Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) community gathered for a special Adopt-A-Road dedication ceremony. The event honored the commitment to maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Hilry Huckaby III Avenue, emphasizing the university's dedication to community stewardship.

During the ceremony, President Dennis J. Shields of the SU System Board of Supervisors, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor Southern University at Shreveport, and Cheryl Taylor, Chief Advancement Officer, shared insights into how this project originated. They emphasized the importance of fostering community pride and maintaining public spaces that reflect the university's values.

Before the sign unveiling, which signifies SUSLA's commitment to keeping the designated area clean, Cheryl Taylor spoke about the university's ongoing efforts to serve as a good neighbor and promote environmental responsibility.

The event underscored SUSLA's dedication, not only to education but also to community involvement and environmental stewardship, reinforcing its role as a positive force in the Shreveport area.



Suicide Prevention

Southern University at Shreveport's Jag Wellness Advocates recently joined the nationwide recognition of #988Day and Suicide Prevention Day. Faculty, staff, and students engaged in meaningful conversations about mental health and the critical role the Louisiana 988 Lifeline played in providing free, 24/7, and confidential support to anyone in emotional distress. One of the most impactful activities involved students writing "You Matter" statements and positive affirmations for those who may have been facing difficult times, along with the distribution of mental health resources and wellness products. The SUSLA Jag Wellness Advocates continued to affirm their commitment to student wellness and suicide prevention, reminding the SUSLA family that help was always just three digits away: 9-8-8.



Southern University at Shreveport Celebrates National Voter Registration Day with Successful Voter Registration Drive

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) marked National Voter Registration Day with a dynamic voter registration drive, empowering students and community members to participate in the democratic process.

The event, held on September 16, 2025 was a collaborative effort between the Shreveport Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the League of Women Voters of Caddo-Bossier, and SUSLA. Organizers provided resources and assistance to help participants register to vote and prepare for upcoming elections.

The drive was particularly focused on engaging the younger generation, celebrating the “Power of Gen Z” and encouraging them to make their voices heard.

"This event was a great success, and we thank everyone who participated. It's crucial for young people to register and vote, shaping the future they want to see," said Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, Southern University at Shreveport.

The voter registration drive reflects SUSLA's ongoing commitment to civic engagement and community empowerment.



“Southern Celebrates Scholarship” Event

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, Cheryl Taylor, Chief Advancement Officer, Shakena Chatman and Ashanti Richardson, SUSLA Allied Health students, proudly represented the university at the inaugural “Southern Celebrates Scholarship” event. This special brunch, through the Southern University System Foundation, was held for donors and scholars in Baton Rouge.

CareSouth CEO Matthew Valliere, a SUSLA donor, visited with the scholarship recipients, engaging with them and showing his support.

It was a time dedicated to honoring achievements, student scholarships, opportunities, supporters, and the bright future of our Jaguars!



Roy Griggs Meet and Greet

Students at Southern University at Shreveport's (SUSLA) Roy Griggs School of Business had a unique opportunity to learn from a successful entrepreneur at a "Meet and Greet." Mr. Roy Griggs, the namesake of the school, shared his personal story of starting and growing a business, providing valuable insights and inspiration to aspiring business leaders.

The event offered a platform for students to engage directly with Mr. Griggs, asking questions about the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship. Mr. Griggs candidly answered questions, providing real-world advice and practical guidance.

"It was an honor to have Mr. Griggs share his experiences with our students. His story is a testament to the power of hard work, determination, and a strong vision, and it's sure to motivate our students as they pursue their own entrepreneurial dreams," said Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor Southern University at Shreveport.

The "Meet and Greet" is part of the Roy Griggs School of Business's ongoing efforts to provide students with practical, real-world learning experiences and connections to industry leaders.



Roy Griggs Meet and Greet



Top Freshman at SUSLA, Awarded \$1,000 Scholarship

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) student Morgan Bates, a top freshman and AAS Surgical Technology major, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Southwest Region. The presentation took place on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 10:30am in the Leonard C. Barnes Administration Building Lobby on the SUSLA campus.

Morgan Bates, who graduated a year early from North Desoto High School, has quickly established herself as a high-achieving student at SUSLA. She is pursuing an AAS degree in Surgical Technology and demonstrates a strong commitment to her studies and future career.

Sharon Penson, Immediate Past President of the Shreveport Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presented the check to Morgan Bates, recognizing her academic achievements and potential.

In her remarks, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor Southern University at Shreveport praised Morgan for her dedication and thanked Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for their generous support of SUSLA students. Dr. Gantt also provided closing remarks for the ceremony.

This scholarship will help Morgan continue her studies and pursue her goals in the demanding field of surgical technology. The scholarship also shows SUSLA's support for helping its students achieve their dreams.



Top Freshman at SUSLA, Awarded \$1,000 Scholarship



Jag Wellness Advocates Achieve Certification in Mental Health First Aid

Southern University at Shreveport is proud to announce that its Jag Wellness Advocates have been certified in Mental Health First Aid through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. This significant achievement empowers the Advocates to identify and address mental health challenges within the campus community.

The training equips them with the skills needed to recognize symptoms, respond with empathy, and connect students, faculty, and staff to essential resources. By fostering these capabilities, the Jag Wellness Advocates continue to serve as exemplary peer leaders.

This initiative not only promotes a culture of compassion and understanding but also helps dismantle the stigma surrounding mental health. It further advances SUSLA's strong commitment to ensuring student wellness and creating a supportive campus environment.



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