

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

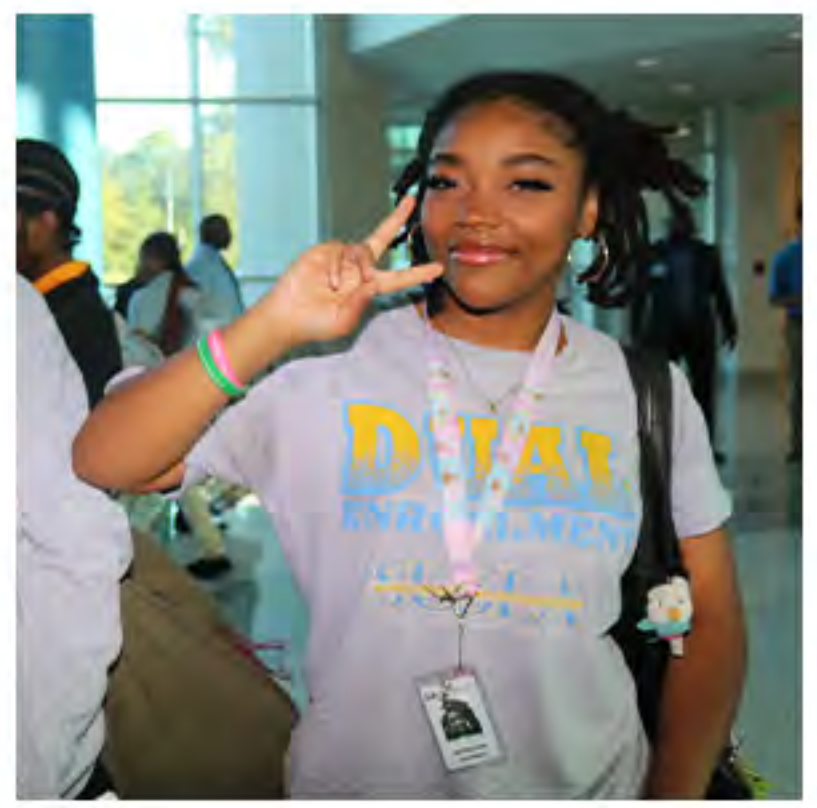
at Shreveport

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



January 2025

SUSLA Priorities



Priority 1

INCREASING ENROLLMENT:

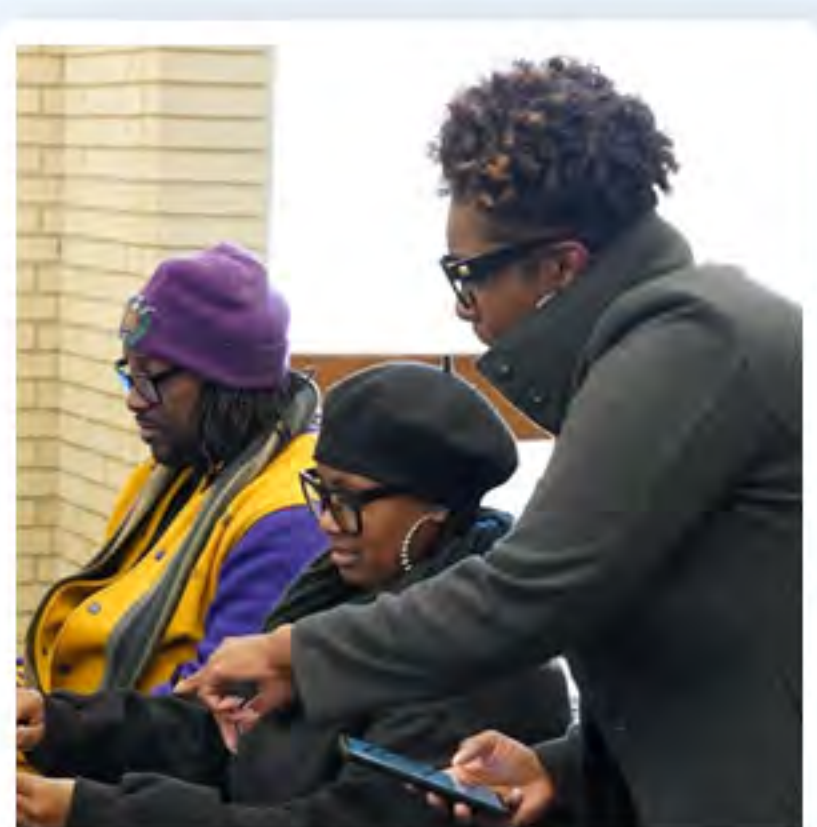
A vibrant and diverse student body is the heart of any successful institution.



Priority 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.



Priority 3

ATTRACT QUALIFIED EDUCATORS & PROFESSIONALS AND RETAIN TALENTED EMPLOYEES:

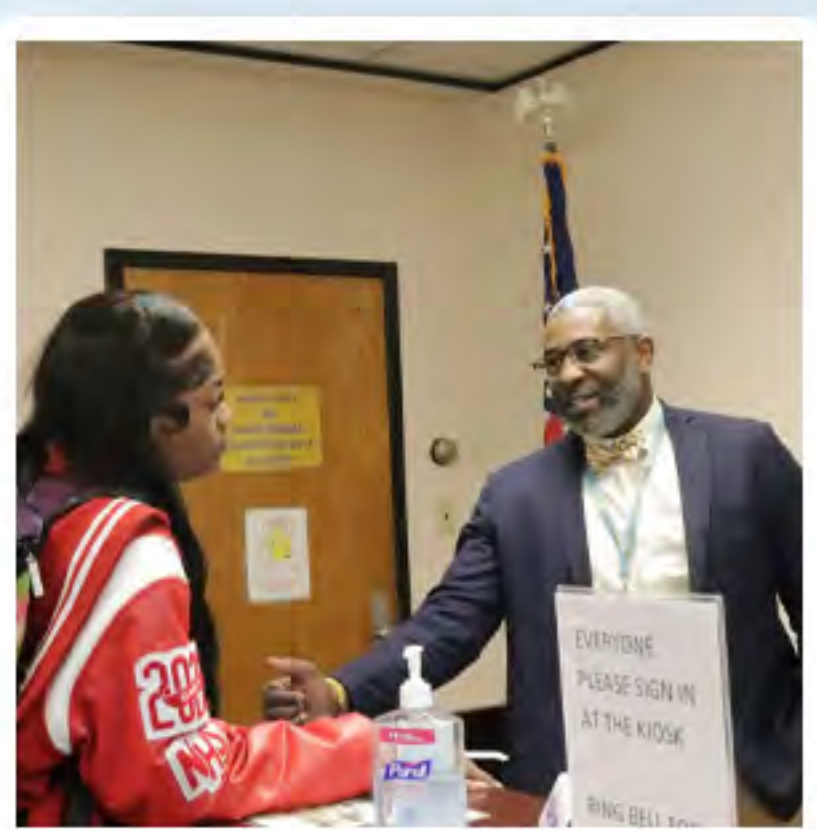
A strong academic community begins with outstanding educators and professionals.



Priority 4

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS:

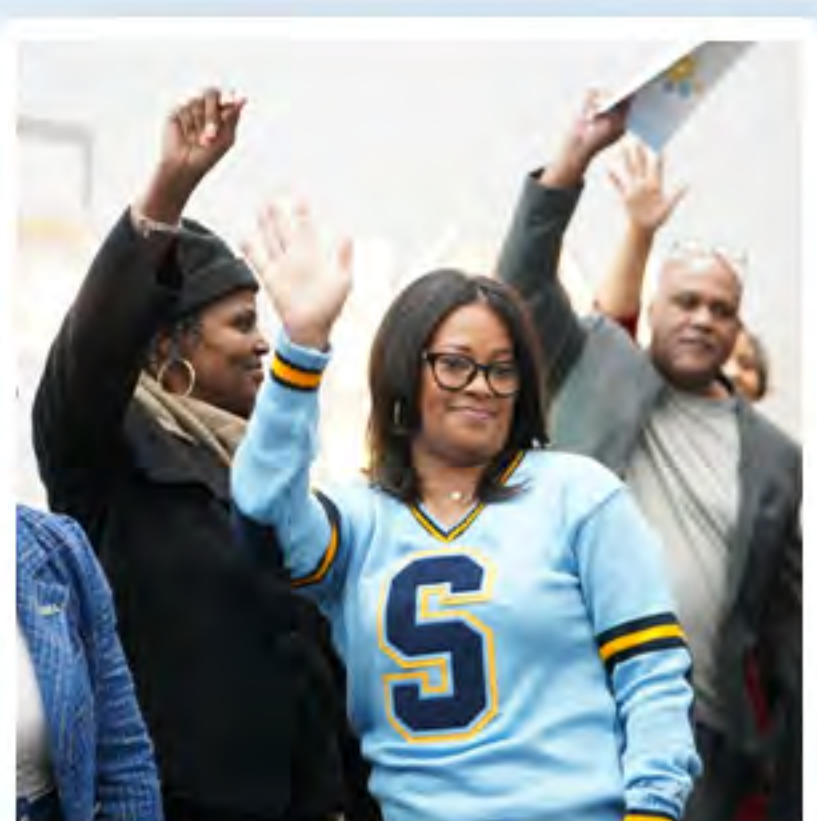
By fostering a culture of continuous improvement, we can enhance our processes and ensure that we are delivering on our promise of excellence.



Priority 5

ENHANCING CUSTOMER SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP OF PLACE:

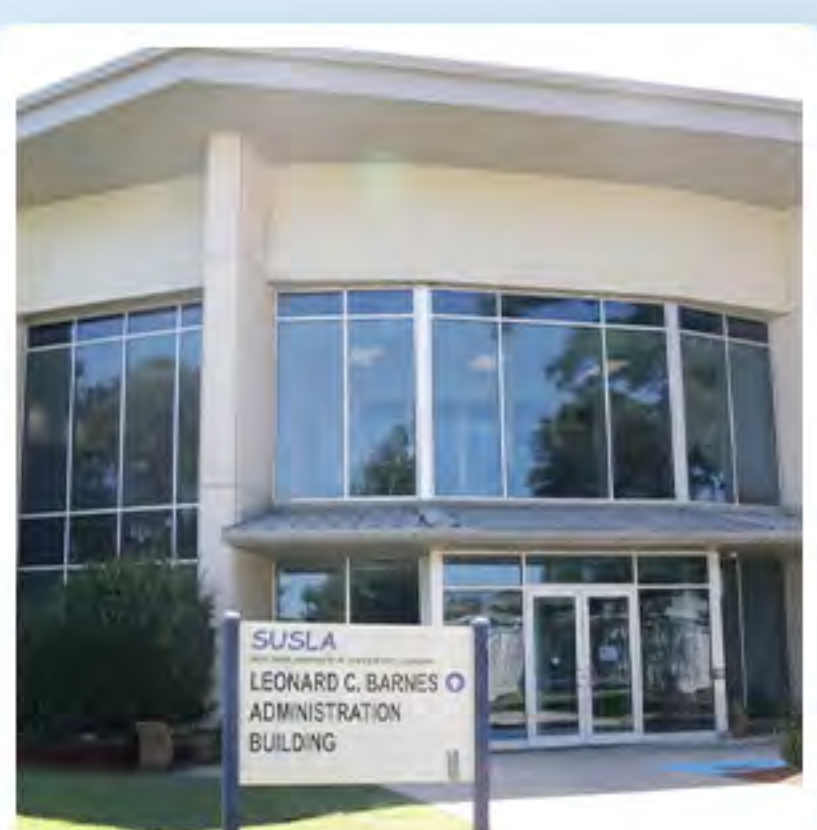
Providing exceptional service to our students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders is paramount as well as an understanding that what is good for the community is good for SUSLA.



Priority 6

CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FACULTY AND STAFF:

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



Priority 7

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES:

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



CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

As we embark on this new year, I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead for our university. At Southern University at Shreveport, we are dedicated to providing transformative experiences for our students through scholarship and leadership opportunities. We recognize the potential within each student and are committed to nurturing their talents and empowering them to become future leaders.

Cultivating strong relationships with our faculty and staff is paramount to our success. This year, we will continue to build upon SUSLA's favorable reputation as a community of experts within our local community. We are committed to fostering an environment of intellectual curiosity and professional development, where both our internal and broader community can benefit from the wealth of knowledge and talent we possess. Along with embracing new technology and innovative ideas, we will continue to foster a cohesive and productive academic environment.

We are thrilled to announce the expansion of our campuses, new academic programs, and certificate options for our students. These additions reflect our commitment to providing relevant, cutting-edge educational opportunities that prepare our graduates for success in an ever-evolving world.

This year, SUSLA will SOAR to new heights! We will embrace change, make a lasting impact on our community, and redefine and reimagine SUSLA as the two-year university of choice. We will continue attracting qualified employment candidates and inspire potential students to join our vibrant learning community. Let us embrace the changes before us, working together to make this year one of our best yet.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt
Chancellor

FACULTY & STAFF INSTITUTE

Southern University at Shreveport came together at the Spring 2025 Faculty & Staff Institute. This vital event served as a platform for employees to learn, share ideas, and prepare for a successful new semester.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, addressed to faculty and staff, "The Spring 2025 semester will be a period of change at both the campus and system levels. I am committed to working collaboratively, deliberately, and tenaciously with you to achieve great things at this institution. Together, let us embrace the changes ahead as we invest in the success of Southern University at Shreveport."

Presenters from various departments led insightful sessions covering a range of topics. These sessions aimed to enhance customer service across campuses and equipped faculty and staff with the knowledge and skills to provide exceptional support to students.

The Institute provided opportunities for faculty and staff from different departments to connect, share best practices, and build stronger working relationships. This interdepartmental collaboration can lead to more efficient processes and improved support for students.

Dr. Gantt emphasized the importance of this collaborative effort, stating, "The Spring 2025 semester will be a period of change at both the campus and system levels. I am committed to working collaboratively, deliberately, and tenaciously with you to achieve great things at this institution. Together, let us embrace the changes ahead as we invest in the success of Southern University at Shreveport."

During the Institute, Dr. Gantt also welcomed SUS General Attorney Corrine Blache, who underscored the significance of adhering to core policies and completing mandatory training.

Beyond the FSI program, additional professional development sessions were provided to focus on innovative teaching methods, incorporating technology in the classroom, and creating engaging learning experiences for students.

The presentations were engaging and inspiring, and the lunch was a delightful treat. Dr. Gantt expressed her sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the Spring 2025 Faculty & Staff Institute. She encouraged all faculty and staff to remain committed, courageous, and collaborative as we strive for continued excellence.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT
S P R I N G 2 0 2 5



SUSLA LEADS THE WAY: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF AI IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Spring professional development did not end with the Faculty & Staff Institute. Throughout January, additional opportunities were available to enhance and improve instruction and customer service, with faculty and staff led by experts in their respective disciplines.

Dr. Anjelica Hart, Interim Dean of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education (AHSSE), led an engaging workshop on using AI software to enhance teaching, productivity, and plagiarism detection. Faculty and staff learned how to use AI in classroom activities and everyday work, keeping SUSLA ahead of the tech curve!

During the workshop, Dr. Hart emphasized how AI has the potential to revolutionize instruction for college educators by providing personalized learning experiences, automating administrative tasks, and offering new insights into student performance. For students, AI can offer personalized tutoring, feedback on assignments, and access to a wealth of information and resources. For instructors and professors, AI can assist with grading, lesson planning, and even generating creative content for courses.

One participant commented on AI's major advantage: its ability to free up educators' time to focus on what they do best: mentoring, inspiring, and guiding students on their academic journeys. This lessened apprehension, and encouraged participants about using AI to enhance the student-centric approach SUSLA advocates.

Professional development workshops like this are among the many ways SUSLA invests in its faculty and staff development and demonstrate why we are the leading community of local experts and talented educators.



CHANCELLOR DR. AUBRA J GANTT ATTENDS THE FIRST MMC MEETING FOR 2025

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) Chancellor Dr. Aubra J. Gantt attended the first 2025 meeting of the Manufacturing Managers Council (MMC) in Shreveport, Louisiana. SUSLA is a proud, active, and contributing member of the MMC, with Dr. John K. Galiotos, Dean of Workforce Development and Associate Professor of Chemistry, representing the university in this critical partnership.

This meeting held special significance due to the presence of State Senator – District 38, the Honorable Mr. Thomas Pressly, as the guest speaker. Senator Pressly's presentation, titled "What's Happening in Louisiana Today", highlighted the state's economic growth, updates on impactful projects, taxation, and critical human capital development initiatives. His well-articulated insights underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing Louisiana's economy and workforce.

Dr. Gantt and Senator Pressly engaged in a productive and forward-looking discussion on topics including Aviation Technology, workforce development initiatives, facilities for education and training, and SUSLA's impactful role in training and educating the communities of Northwest Louisiana. Senator Pressly praised SUSLA's efforts to meet the region's workforce needs and expressed his unwavering commitment to supporting the university's continued growth and success.

In addition to this conversation, Dr. Gantt networked with several CEOs and business leaders in attendance. These industry leaders echoed their support for SUSLA and pledged their readiness to help the university expand its influence and capabilities in the region, further cementing SUSLA's vital role in workforce development and economic progress.



Thomas Pressly is an attorney and politician who has served as a member of the Louisiana Senate from the 38th district since 2024. He previously represented the 6th district in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 2020 to 2024.



EDUCATION BEYOND LIMITS: FINDING YOUR PATH AT SUSLA

While there are many traditional college freshmen completing their first year in college, the Spring semester brings former high school graduates who are now finding a new path through higher education. These are our non-traditional students, and they are here to make their mark!

There are many unique challenges non-traditional students face, such as balancing work, family, and personal commitments, which often make college overwhelming. Sometimes they are overcoming self-doubt and past academic hurdles while looking for a learning environment that's flexible and supportive.

SUSLA understands these challenges and is committed to providing a welcoming and accessible pathway to higher education for all.

Programs like Student Support Services, located in the Fine Arts Building, offer academic advising, tutoring, and other support services that can help non-traditional and traditional students succeed.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, SUSLA Chancellor, encourages all students, no matter their path, to be a SUSLA JAG! "Join clubs and organizations to enhance their college experience and share ideas and goals with like-minded peers. Attend class regularly and keep in touch with all of your professors and advisors throughout your semester; they are there to support you. Get assistance; don't be afraid to ask questions and get the support you need to navigate your personal and professional goals."

One of SUSLA's priorities is our commitment to putting students' needs, aspirations, and success first so that we can provide them with a holistic and impactful educational journey. The Spring Semester at SUSLA has started with great success.



SCAN FOR
MORE INFORMATION



CHANCELLOR'S E.L.I.T.E.S.



The Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) Chancellor's E.L.I.T.E.S. (Elegant Ladies in Today's Educational Society) celebrated the culmination of their 2024 mentorship cohort with a "Conversation with the Chancellor" luncheon at the Petroleum Club of Shreveport. The event provided an opportunity for young women to enjoy a meal and receive words of encouragement and empowerment from Chancellor Aubra Gantt.

The Chancellor's E.L.I.T.E.S. program, a new initiative at SUSLA, offers a unique top-down mentorship experience. It is committed to providing a more meaningful and intentional mentorship experience. The program provides unprecedented access to Dr. Aubra Gantt, SUSLA's first female Chancellor, as well as access to academic, business, entrepreneurial, and faith-based leaders across Northwest Louisiana.

The program focuses on promoting student retention, personal and career development, emotional intelligence and wellness, financial literacy, and degree attainment. It emphasizes educational capital, self-esteem, community engagement, and professional development. The Chancellor's E.L.I.T.E.S. Mentorship Program at Southern University at Shreveport is dedicated to helping students achieve their vision of success.

Chancellor Gantt expressed her gratitude to the mentees for their commitment and active participation in the program's various empowerment and educational workshops, community service projects, and campus activities throughout the year.

The 2024 Chancellor's E.L.I.T.E.S. cohort included: Zu'Dai Anderson, 56th Miss SUSLA (Nursing); Courtney Armstrong (Respiratory Therapy); Lorraine Braxton, 57th Miss SUSLA (Computer Science); Ny'Shayla Clay (Surgical Technology); Morgan Daniel (Human Services); Calliyionia Lee (Psychology); Nailah Patin (Nursing); Jimnesha Smith (Respiratory Therapy); La'Tia Smith (Radiologic Technology); and Tamia Williams, 55th Miss SUSLA (Radiologic Technology).



**YOU GOTTA HAVE ART:
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART AT SHREVEPORT
SHOWCASES "PRISMATIC" BY HILLARY FRAZIER**

The Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport (SUMAS) is currently hosting "PRISMATIC," a solo exhibition by acclaimed artist Hillary Frazier. This captivating exhibition showcases Frazier's unique blend of traditional illustration, hand-drawn typography, and narrative imagery. Her artwork often features empowered women, capturing the nuanced balance between strength and vulnerability. Through her work, Frazier offers a multifaceted exploration of femininity.

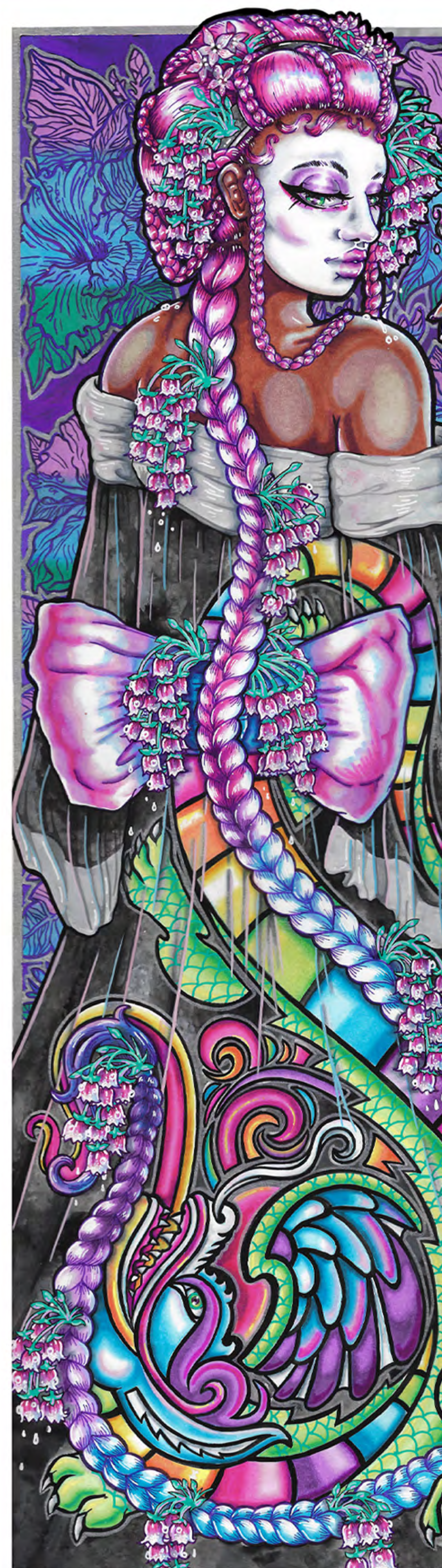
Frazier, a Louisiana-based artist, draws inspiration from renowned figures like Alphonse Mucha, Fiona Staples, Skottie Young, and Jamie Hewlett. Her creative process often begins with organic sketches that evolve into reflections of her stream of consciousness. This approach allows her to translate her passions into intricate details and dynamic compositions, resulting in compelling narratives. Frazier earned a double Bachelor's degree in Studio Arts and Communications (with an emphasis in film) from Centenary College of Louisiana in 2013 and a Master of Arts in Art from Northwestern State University in 2019.

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) and SUMAS are dedicated to supporting the vibrant arts community in Shreveport-Bossier. By showcasing the work of local artists like Hillary Frazier, SUMAS provides a platform for artistic expression and cultural enrichment.

"Showcasing the work of our local artists is crucial for fostering a thriving arts community," says Eric Francis, Museum Coordinator at SUMAS. "It allows us to celebrate the unique talent within our region and inspire future generations of artists."

The opening reception on January 16th provided the community with an opportunity to meet the artist and experience "PRISMATIC" firsthand. Artist Hillary Frazier expressed her enthusiasm for the overwhelming support received from the community and her peers.

"PRISMATIC" will be on view during regular museum hours until March 13, 2025.



610 TEXAS STREET, SUITE 110
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY-THURSDAY
10AM - 5PM
FRIDAY
10AM - 12PM

Priority 6



Artist, Hillary Frazier talks with guests at the opening reception.

SUSLA TAKES FLIGHT

Nestled within the historic Downtown Airport, the Aerospace Technology Center at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is training the next generation of aviation professionals. Housed in one aircraft hangar and an administrative building with 3 classrooms, a conference room, computer and project labs, the center offers a unique opportunity for students to launch their careers in a high-demand field.

The Downtown Airport holds a special place in Shreveport's history. It served as the city's first commercial airport, welcoming Delta Airlines' inaugural flights from Dallas in 1929 and officially opening in 1931. While Shreveport Regional Airport now handles major commercial traffic, the Downtown Airport continues to thrive as a general aviation hub, serving private pilots, businesses, and educational institutions like SUSLA. The Aerospace Technology Center occupies the airport's original hangar, a testament to the site's rich aviation heritage.

SUSLA's aircraft technician program stands alone in the region, providing critical training for aspiring aviation technicians. With a projected 14.3% increase in airframe and powerplant maintenance positions by 2026, the demand for skilled technicians is soaring. The average salary in the Shreveport market is an impressive \$60,000, making this a lucrative career path for graduates. This demand was further highlighted by the addition of several aviation maintenance companies to start operations in Shreveport allowing ample employment locally that are and will be filled by Aerospace graduates.

Under the dedicated leadership of Program Director Timothy Banks, the program has witnessed remarkable student success. Their commitment to excellence ensures students receive top-tier education and are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the aerospace industry.

"SUSLA's Aerospace Technology program is recognized for its excellence in preparing students for careers in the field," says Mr. Banks. The program combines comprehensive lectures and hands-on lab experience, building a strong foundation of



Small class sizes, with a student-to-instructor ratio of approximately 25:1, provide personalized attention and support. Students explore three key subject areas: General, Power Plant, and Airframe, preparing them for the FAA examination. Many students are even offered employment before completing the program.

The program boasts inspiring success stories. Graduate Isaiah Cates now serves as the director and co-owner of Neu Aviation Maintenance. A prime example of the program's impact, Cates is not only a working A&P technician but also a private pilot pursuing his instrument rating. As Neu Aviation expands, it continues to partner with SUSLA for its hiring needs. Peyton McEntyre, Neu Aviation's Aircraft Maintenance Apprentice, is currently enrolled in SUSLA's A&P Maintenance program and anticipates completing his degree and certification in 2026. Leading aviation companies, including PSA Airlines, Signature Aviation, Western Global Airlines, Metro Aviation and Tubreaux Aviation regularly recruit SUSLA graduates for their skilled and knowledgeable workforce. The program is anticipating the donation of a T-1A aircraft from the government pending final paperwork and required delivery cost.

Priority 1



Students hailing from local high schools (Caddo Magnet, C.E. Byrd and Captain Shreve) discovered the program through various channels, including family connections, friends, and career fairs. They recognize the program's potential to launch them into a rewarding career.

SUSLA's Aerospace Technology Center addresses a critical workforce need and opens doors to women in STEM. While women remain underrepresented in the aerospace industry, comprising only 13.4% of the workforce in 2021, and a mere 2.6% of maintenance technicians, this program is actively encouraging and supporting their participation. SUSLA is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment, empowering the next generation of aerospace professionals, regardless of gender. The program's proven track record of placing highly qualified graduates in a high-demand career underscores its vital role in shaping the future of aviation in the region.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



SUSLA GOES TO WASHINGTON D.C.

The 2025 Washington D.C. Mardi Gras events for higher education leaders isn't just a social event; it's an opportunity to advocate for funding. Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently sent faculty, staff, and students to the nation's capital to network and meet with congressional delegation members. The Southern University System and prospective donors joined forces to secure the funding needed to address the historic \$1 billion funding disparity between Southern University and non-HBCU colleges and universities in Louisiana.

According to the Louisiana Illuminator, Southern University System President Dennis Shields reported he is also seeking funding for the university's capital campaign, adding that he was "feeling optimistic" about securing funds for both.

SUSLA's 57th Student Government Association President, Marlon Davenport, represented SUSLA and the Louisiana Board of Regents. While in Washington, D.C., he met with other student leaders from the Louisiana University System. Davenport, along with SUSLA Chancellor Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, also communicated with Congressman Cleo Fields, Senator Bill Cassidy, and Louisiana State Representative Vanessa C. LaFleur to share their perspectives from a two-year university regarding the need for support and funding.

Chancellor Gantt represented SUSLA among the Washington Mardi Gras guests and legislators, echoing President Shields',Chairman Tony Clayton's,Attorney Domoine D. Rutledge's and the entire Board of Supervisors' desire to see SUS Improve student outcomes by elaborating with key stakeholders.

The visit was both enriching and exciting for all who attended.



FRANK TAYLOR JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IMPACTS STUDENTS MAJORING IN BSTEM

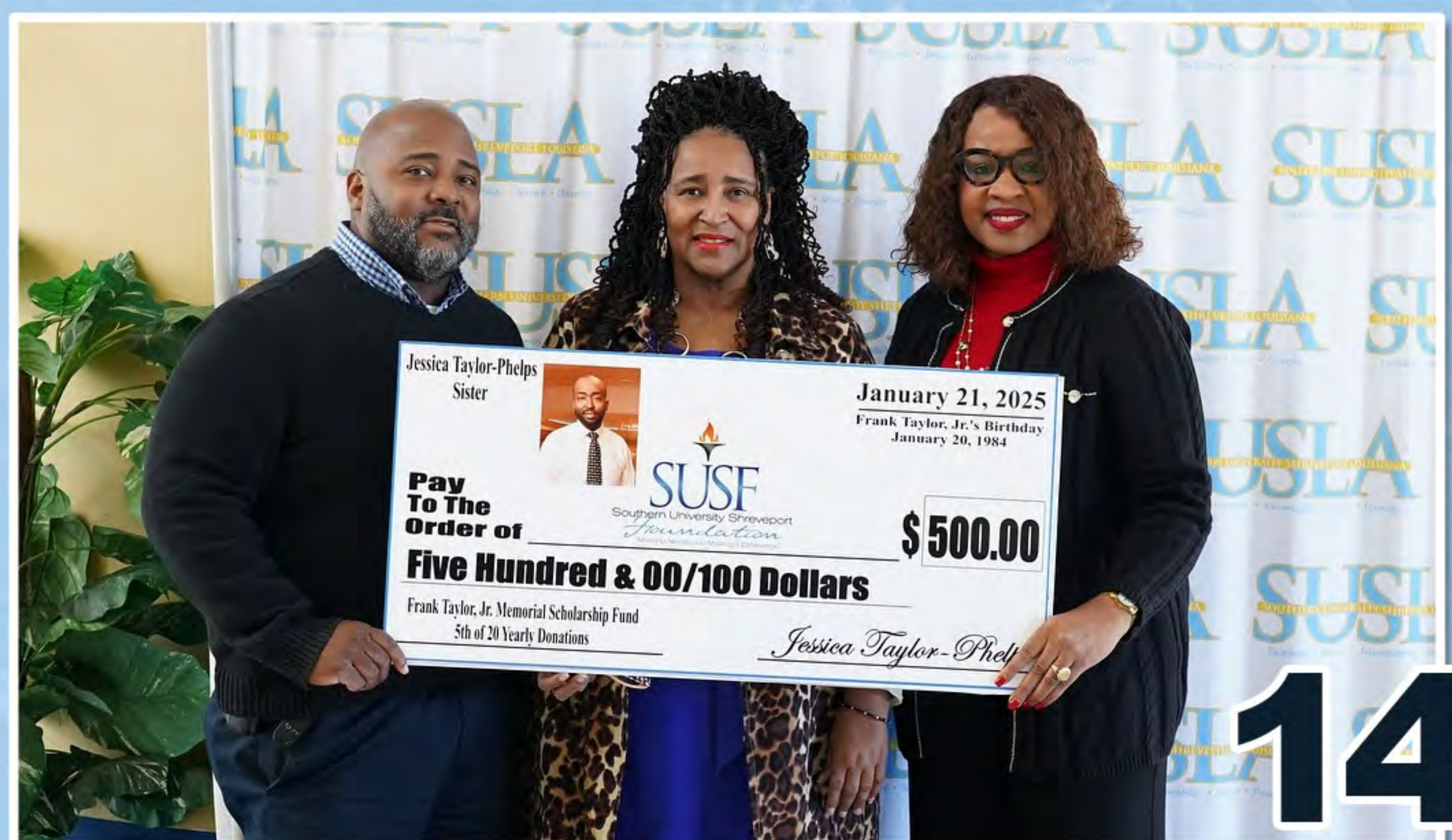
Diamond Whitaker, a SUSLA Engineering Technology Major, was awarded the Frank Taylor, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Cheryl Taylor, SUSLA Chief Advancement Officer, was on hand to present the annual scholarship award named in honor of her late son and SUSLA graduate, Frank Taylor Jr.

Diamond described the scholarship as an opportunity that will assist her as she continues to pursue her dreams. She also emphasized how impactful the BSTEM department has been on her educational journey. “The faculty and staff are always willing to help you and make accommodations if needed,” said Diamond during her acceptance speech.

The late Frank Taylor, Jr. enrolled at Southern University at Shreveport in the summer of 2002. During his two-year matriculation at SUSLA, he served as the Freshman Class President, Student Government Association President, and was a member of the Southern University Board of Supervisors – making his voice heard across all of the campuses.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, SUSLA Chancellor, expressed her sincere appreciation for Southern University Shreveport Foundation’s impact at SUSLA through scholarships as well as Frank’s momentous contributions he and his family have made to SUSLA, including voting for approval to construct Jaguar Courtyard Apartments, which offers SUSLA students on-campus residential options as they reach their academic goals.

SUSLA actively encourages and facilitates external donations to support student success. These donations are crucial for providing scholarships like the Frank Taylor, Jr. Scholarship, which helps alleviate financial burdens and enable students to pursue their educational aspirations.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTY. TONY CLAYTON
CHAIRMAN

MR. PAUL P. MATTHEWS

MR. MYRON K. LAWSON

RANI G. WHITFIELD, M.D.

MS. MAPLE L. GAINES

ATTY. EDWIN M. SHORTY JR.

REV. SAMUEL C. TOLBERT, JR.

MS. ZAZELL V. DUDLEY

MRS. ANN A. SMITH

ATTY. DOMOINE D. RUTLEDGE

MR. CHRIS MASINGILL

ATTY. QUINCEY CAWTHORN

SHERIFF HENRY L. WHITEHORN, SR.

MR. REGGIE ABRAHAM

REV. DONALD RAY HENRY

MS. DANA BAILEY
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

DENNIS J. SHIELDS
PRESIDENT & SECRETARY TO
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CHANCELLOR'S EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

DR. SHERLYNN HALL
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DR. DOMETRIUS HILL
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT
AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT
MANAGEMENT

DR. VELORIA NANZE
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FINANCE &
ADMINISTRATION

MS. CHERYL D. TAYLOR
CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

DR. JOHN GALIOTOS
DEAN OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT &
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

MS. CAROLYN MILLER
DEPUTY CIO ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

MS. ROSHUNDRA DAVIS
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

MR. ZUMMIE LAW III
GRAPHIC SERVICES

MS. SIMONE KEYS
EDITOR

MR. CHRISTOPHER LEWIS
PHOTOGRAPHY

