Southern University at Shreveport

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1967



CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Volume 2 | Issue 5 | May 2024

CHANCELLOR GANTT'S PRIORITIES

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.

Priority 1 Increasing Enrollment

Workforce Development: General Manager of The Hong Kong Great Wanda Company Visits SUSLA

Mr. Brian Qian General Manager for The Hong Kong Great Wanda Company Limited, visited Southern University at Shreveport Workforce Development Department. Mr. Qian had constructive conversations with Dr. Galiotos focusing in the following areas:

- Student and faculty exchanges with represented ones in the People's Republic of China
- Applied research projects
- Recruitment strategies and tactics of Chinese students to enroll in SUSLA programs, and cultural activities.



Mr. Qian's company represents several Chinese industries in the Oil & Gas sector; China National Petroleum Corporation, Sinopec, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, Sinochem, Shandong Energy Group, and others.

Mr. Qian had exploratory conversations with Dr. Galiotos about possibilities for SUSLA to offer customized fast-track training and credentialing training in Oil & Gas operations (upstream, midstream, and downstream) as well as safety best practices in that sector.

Power Engineering Technology, partnership with PanGlobal, and related certifications by NIULPE were also part of the main exploratory discussions.

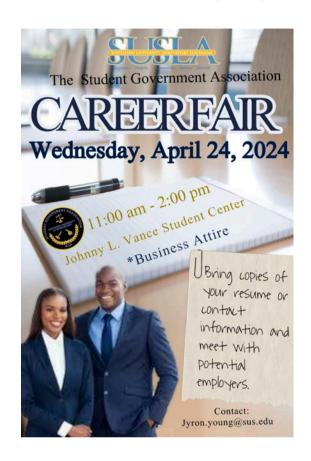
Mr. Qian met with Dr. Aubra Gantt, Dr. Lonnie McCray, Mr. Fred Moss, Mr. Major Brock, Mr. Calvin Lester, and Dr. Devonye Brown.

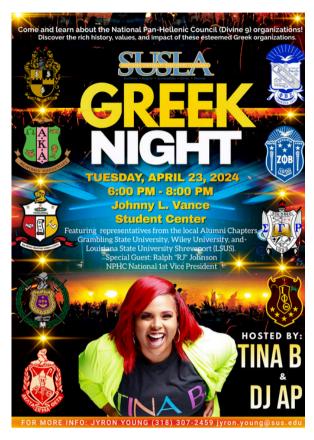


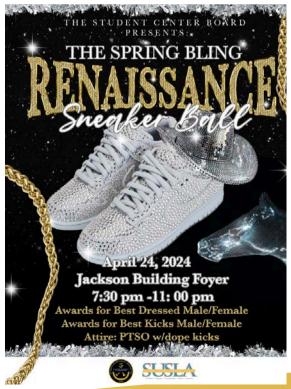


Increasing Enrollment

Spring Fest Week 2024









Increasing Enrollment

Spring Fest Week 2024













Increasing Enrollment

Spring Fest Week 2024









Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

Caravan to Canvas: Student Canvas Migration Implementation Plan

SUSLA students are thrilled and eager to explore the forthcoming transition from Moodle to Canvas for their Learning Management System (LMS). Training sessions have already commenced and will persist in the future. Students have been equipped with detailed instructions on navigating the Canvas platform and have received their login credentials to initiate work on the "Passport to Canvas" course. Upon completion of this course, students gain thorough guidance on Canvas features and their pivotal role in fostering each student's success. Students have the ability to self-enroll in the course by using the following link: Student Canvas Self-Enrollment Goal: Facilitate student proficiency in utilizing the Canvas platform for learning purposes.

Objectives:

- Introduce students to the features and functions of Canvas.
- Provide students with the necessary skills to manage course materials and communicate effectively within Canvas.
- Empower students to utilize assessment tools and engage in collaborative activities using Canvas.





Activities	Dates	Times
Face-to-Face Training	May 8	1:00 p.m.
Caravan to Canvas Party: Student		1:30 pm
Metro Campus		2:00 pm
The Student Experience		3:00 pm
Session I: Getting Started		https://sus.zoom.us/j/7994780805
<u>Virtual Training</u>		
Virtual Training	April 29	1:00 pm
Part I: Getting Started		1:30 pm
Part II: Canvas Course Registration		2:00 pm
Part III: Checking Progress/Student App		https://sus.zoom.us/j/7994780805
Virtual Training	May 8	1:30 pm
Part I: Getting Started		2:00 pm
Part II: Canvas Course Registration		3:00 pm
Part III: Checking Progress/Student App		https://sus.zoom.us/j/7994780805

<u>Virtual Training</u>	<u>May 14</u>	1:00 pm
Part I: Getting Started		1:30 pm
Part II: Canvas Course Registration		2:00 pm
Part III: Checking Progress/Student App		https://sus.zoom.us/j/7994780805
<u>Virtual Training</u>	May 22	1:00 pm
Part I: Getting Started		1:30 pm
Part II: Canvas Course Registration		2:00 pm
Part III: Checking Progress/Student App		https://sus.zoom.us/j/7994780805
<u>Virtual Training</u>	May 29	1:00 pm
Part I: Getting Started		1:30 pm
Part II: Canvas Course Registration		2:00 pm
Part III: Checking Progress/Student App		https://sus.zoom.us/j/7994780805





Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

SUSLA Nursing Career Day

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, the Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program at Southern University at Shreveport (RN program) hosted a Career Day for its Spring 2024 graduating nursing students. Recruiters from acute health care facilities presented information on starting salaries, health benefits, and tuition reimbursement. Those from educational institutions presented informational paths to bachelor's and master's degree programs. Presenters included representatives from the following:



- Chamberlain University
- Christus Health System
- DCI Incorporation
- Elite Hiring Solutions
- Intensive Specialty Health
- Northwestern State University
- Ochsner/LSU Health
- Southern University and A&M College (Baton Rouge)
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- Willis Knighton Health System



The School of Nursing is proud to partner with local hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes to provide clinical experiences for its students. The ASN program has also partnered with several 4-year institutions to offer pathways for RN-to-BSN (even MSN). For more information on nursing program offerings, visit the nursing homepage at https://www.susla.edu/subhome/114





Priority Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

Southern University at Shreveport Trio Upward Bound North 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 North Student Highlights



Taylor Washington is a junior at Booker T. Washington High School. She is an active participant in Southern University at Shreveport TRiO Upward Bound North program as well as SUSLA Dual Enrollment and Early College Mass Communication Program. Taylor Washington was recently named the first-place winner of the 2024 Junior Film Prize festival.

(Mental Health Crisis: Do You Know the Signs?)
This short film is on YouTube.

Keven Richardson, Green Oaks Student of the Year, received more than \$200,000.00 in scholarship offers. He is an active participant in Southern University at Shreveport TRiO Upward Bound North program. In the fall, he will attend Southern University A&M College and major in Kinesiology. Keven has received the TOP Jags Scholarship and was recently accepted into Honor Colleges. We are proud of Keven Richardson and his accomplishments.

Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management TRiO Upward Bound North Staff:

Mr. Ernest C. Flowers, Program Director
Ms. Thirandar Francis, Coordinator Education Advocate
Mrs. Nelwrynn Hunter, Coordinator Educational Advocate



Priority Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

Hunger Free Campus Grant Award

Act 719 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, authored by Baton Rouge State Representative Barbara Freiberg, established criteria for Louisiana higher education institutions to earn the Hunger-Free Campus designation and authorized the Hunger-Free Campus competitive grant program to support the institutions in their efforts.

In 2023, all Louisiana public postsecondary and four private postsecondary institutions met the minimum requirements to receive the designation, including Southern University at Shreveport.

To enact the charge of the legislation, the Board of Regents awarded six Louisiana public postsecondary institutions \$8,000 each to support the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative at their institutions. Southern University at Shreveport is an award recipient and will use the grant funds to address mid-month hunger and emergency food needs, offer personal hygiene products, and provide food for students with specific dietary needs.

The grant will also support the purchase of much-needed equipment to operate Jaguar Junction, our food pantry. The SUSLA Hunger-Free Campus Committee members are Dr. Michael Anderson, Ms. Sonya Hester, Dr. Joslin Pickens, Ms. Sharmain Talbert, Ms. Brenda Henderson, and Dr. Lonnie McCray.



Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

Workforce Development: BP X Energy TechScholars Onshore Training Program

Southern University at Shreveport participated in the inaugural BP X Energy TechScholars Onshore Training program represented by three graduating students from the SUSLA Process Technology program: Taliayah Parker, Austin Stewart, and Jaden Martin. Dr. John K. Galiotos served as Faculty attaché and advisor representing Southern University at Shreveport. This pioneering initiative, organized by BP X Energy, aimed to promote careers in onshore operations and attract talent from relevant programs operating at select community colleges.

The training took place in Shreveport, Louisiana from April 1 to April 4, 2024. Our students distinguished themselves early on for their collaborative spirit, effective communication, solid knowledge base, practical skills, and unwavering enthusiasm for the program. They were also commended for their supportive role in assisting their fellow scholars throughout the training.

Southern University at Shreveport can take pride in its Process Technology and Petroleum Engineering Technology faculty. Their passion, dedication, resilience, and relevant qualifications have positively impacted our students' education and training. The cohort consisted of 17 students specializing in Process Technology and Instrumentation Technology, accompanied by three dedicated instructors. The participating institutions included Southern University at Shreveport, Lone Star College (Houston, Texas), and San Juan Community College (Farmington, New Mexico). The BPX Energy TechScholars had the opportunity to visit BPX Energy and Kinder-Morgan onshore gas field operating and producing assets in Haynesville, as well as Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking) operations in the same region.

The training also included mock interviews, resume writing, advising sessions by BPX Energy midstream leadership, career explorations and pathways with BP after graduation, and continuous safety best practices and updates. Further enhancing their knowledge, the students, instructors, and BPX-Energy Team visited the NE Texas Oil Museum in Kilgore, Texas.



Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

Workforce Development: BP TechScholars Offshore Training Program

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They were also commended for their supportive role in assisting their fellow scholars throughout the training. The cohort consisted of 17 students specializing in Process Technology and Instrumentation Technology, accompanied by three dedicated instructors. The participating institutions included Southern University at Shreveport, Lone Star College (Houston, Texas), and San Juan Community College (Farmington, New Mexico). Upon completing the Process Simulations training, all students successfully passed their Water Survival Skills examinations, earning the OPITO/Maersk THUET Sea Survival CA-EBS industry certification. This certification, endorsed by OPITO, is recognized by the global offshore industry for the next four years, providing essential safety training for personnel working in offshore oil and gas operations.











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Priority

Adopting a Student-Centric Approach

Workforce Development: BP TechScholars Training Program

Congratulations

Graduating students from the SUSLA Process Technology program:

From left: Mr. Jaden Martin, Mr. Austin Stewart, Dr. Aubra Gantt, Ms. Taliayah Parker, and Dr. John K. Galiotos



The BPX Energy and SUSLA Team at the BPX Energy Onshore training in Shreveport, LA



Attract Qualified Educators & Professionals and Retain Talented Employees

New Hires & Promotions











Attract Qualified Educators & Professionals and Retain Talented Employees

New Hires & Promotions











Priority
Promoting a Culture of
Institutional Effectiveness

Southern University System Representatives Participate in Spring 2024 eLearning Task Force Professional Development

On May 17, 2024, representatives from the Southern University System converged in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the spring 2024 eLearning Task Force Professional Development event. Organized by the eLearning Task Force committee for the Board of Regents, the gathering aimed to foster advancements in online learning strategies.



Melinda Roberts Perry, SUNO Executive Online Director, highlighted the collaborative nature of the conference, emphasizing its significance in the advancement of online education in Louisiana. Dr. Veronica McEachin, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Innovations/Director of E-Learning at Southern University at Shreveport, echoed this sentiment as one of the Southern University System attendees. Notably, Dr. McEachin serves on the E-Learning task committee for the Board of Regents, underscoring the commitment of the Southern University System to enhance online education statewide. Joining her were representatives from the Southern University System from left to right - Tyquencia Parker, Interim Director for the SUSLA Connect Program; Joyce Cottonham, (SUSLA) Associate Professor of English; Dr. Cheryl D. Blackshire, (SUSLA) Assistant Professor for Nursing/Clinical Coordinator; Melinda Roberts Perry, SUNO Executive Online Director; Dr. Yolander Smith, (SUBR) Interim Director of SU Online/LAABSET Corporate and Community Liaison/Project Manager - DXC Partnership and Top Jags Campus Advisor; Barbara Woods, (SUBR) Technology Manager for CANVAS; Gwendolyn Tennell, (SUSLA) Assistant Director of E-Learning/LMS administrator; and Colton Wiggins, (SUSLA) Director of the Polysomnography Technology Program.



During the eLearning Task Force Professional Development event, Mr. Colton Wiggins, Director of the Polysomnography Technology Program at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), not only delivered a presentation titled "Streamlining Presentation & Assessment Creation for eLearning" but also left feeling immensely inspired about the future of online learning. Mr. Wiggins' session offered practical guidance, highlighting how educators can leverage online technologies and proven eLearning practices to

streamline the development of high-quality instructor resources. He further sparked discussions on how online technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be harnessed to facilitate the onboarding of new instructors transitioning from the workforce to higher education.

As a first-time attendee and breakout session speaker, Mr. Wiggins found the data presented at the event particularly motivating. The data highlighted a surge in demand for online programs and courses. Students are increasingly seeking affordable and flexible options to pursue valuable certificates and degrees. This trend positions the Southern University System exceptionally well to become a leader in online education. The university's exceptional eLearning and IT departments, working hand-in-hand with faculty, are continuously improving our online presence; ensuring students have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Joyce Cottonham, an Associate Professor of English, emphasized during her participation in the E-Learning Conference in Baton Rouge, the significant impact Artificial Intelligence (AI) is poised to have on the future landscape of higher education and adult learning. AI stands as a burgeoning trend capable of reshaping traditional educational paradigms. Through personalized and interactive learning experiences, AI holds the promise of revolutionizing higher education, while simultaneously providing valuable insights and support to students and educators alike.

The participation of Southern University System representatives in this event underscores the commitment to advancing eLearning initiatives and fostering collaboration among institutions within the system.

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Promoting a Culture of Institutional Effectiveness

Professional Development Stress Management

On April 9 & 11, 2024 Yuvette Allen presented to faculty, staff, and students. During these sessions, it was communicated how writing can be used as medicine to decrease and relieve stress through journaling.













Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

The Investiture of Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt, Ed.D.

The Investiture Ceremony for Dr. Aubra Jeanette Gantt as the eighth leader of Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) was held Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 PM at the Shreveport Convention Center. Gathering to witness this first-ever investiture ceremony and reception for the Shreveport campus were presidents and chancellors from more than 10 colleges and universities; the Southern University System Board of Supervisors; federal, state, and local elected officials; students; alumni; faculty; staff; family; community leaders and friends. Higher education investiture ceremonies are traditionally held within the first year of a new leader's tenure. Dr. Gantt began her service in July 2023, making history as the first female chancellor at the Shreveport campus.



Dr. Gantt was presented to a capacity-filled audience of nearly 400 by her mentor, Dr. Ray L. Belton, the 10th President/Chancellor of the Southern University System and the Sixth Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport. Dr. Belton's introduction chronicled Dr. Gantt's higher education path to the chancellor's position. He said, "Upon meeting her as a young professional, I recognized her spark of energy, her drive to perform with excellence, and her grit to finish the task once begun. Today, those qualities have defined her as a consummate professional."

During the formal investiture ceremony, The Oath of Office was administered by The Honorable Carl E. Stewart, United States Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals Fifth Judicial Circuit. The Honorable Dennis Shields, President of the Southern University System, presented Dr. Gantt with the university mace, which is a symbol of the Office of the Chancellor. To complete her official university regalia, SU System Board members The Honorable Zazell Dudley and The Honorable Sam Gilliam draped Dr. Gantt with the Chancellor's hood and the chain of office, respectively. The handcrafted chain bears a medallion with SUSLA's seal. Additionally, the names of SUSLA's eight chancellors are engraved on small plates along the chain of office.





Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

Investiture Ceremony

Welcomes and commendations were given by the Honorable Myron K. Lawson, Chairman, Southern University System Board of Supervisors; Ms. Tari T. Bradford, Chief of Staff for Shreveport Mayor Tom Arceneaux; SUSLA Faculty Senate President Mr. Fred Moss, IV; SUSLA Staff Senate President Capt. Jeff Ivey; Miss Zu'Dai Anderson, 56th Miss Southern University at Shreveport; and The Honorable JyRon O. Young, the 56th SGA President and Student Representative for the Southern University System Board of Supervisors. Dr. Angelique Feaster Evans, Southern University Museum of Art Shreveport Events and Management Coordinator served as toastmistress.

In her impactful address, Chancellor Gantt said, "This institution is in my heart. We have gathered tonight not only to celebrate me, but to celebrate the great strides SUSLA has made and represents in this community, state, and nation. I want the 3,000 students who matriculate across our campus each week to envision themselves out in the world accomplishing their highest goals and living their best dreams just as I have today. She continued, "My vision for SUSLA is to establish a culture of institutional excellence and effectiveness. Our vision is bold, aggressive and comes with high expectations, but together I know we can get there."



In a moving closing tribute Burnadine Moss Anderson, Investiture Chairman, and Africa G. Price, Reimagine SUSLA Transition Team Chairman presented an array of keepsakes as permanent reminders of a grand celebration for Dr. Gantt and the entire SUSLA family.







Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

Investiture Ceremony

















Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

SUSLA Hosts April Board of Supervisors Meeting

2024 Above & Beyond Award Recipient: Mr. Bobby Rhines, Master Maintenance Repairer



Check Presentations: Care South (Darrin Dixon) and Capital One Bank (Lydia Jackson)





Chancellor Gantt pictured with Dr. Robert Rene, Dr. Lamar Goree & prospective Southern University student & Chairman Myron Lawson



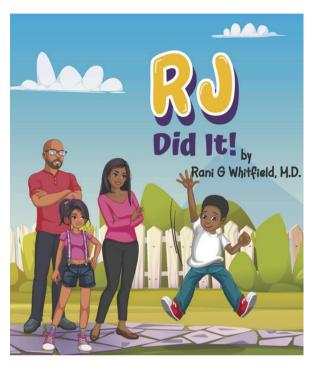




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Priority Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

Southern University Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Participates in Litéracy Friday at Pinegrove Elementary



Dr. Rani G. Whitfield, Vice Chair for the Southern University Board of Supervisors, and distinguished author visited Pine Grove Elementary along with Chancellor Gantt on April 19th. Dr. Whitfield shared his book entitled "RJ Did It!" with an energetic group of kindergarteners.

"RJ Did It" is a heartwarming journey through the milestones of parenting, following the adventures of an energetic young boy named RJ. With rhythmic verses, it chronicles RJ's growth as he learns crucial life skills like toothbrushing, chores, singing, and handwashing. This touching tale not only celebrates RJ's achievements but also showcases the enduring bonds within a family.

Dr. Whitfield was able to gift each child a copy of the book during his visit. Literacy Friday wrapped up the Chancellor's Investiture week of activities.





Priority Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

SUSLA Hosts Health & Wellness Fair

Southern University at Shreveport held a Health and Wellness Day for the community. On-site services included blood pressure screenings, cholesterol testing, dental health checks, and more. Our nine divisions of Allied Health and Nursing in partnership with our TRiO programs were a big part of the event. Patrons attended workshops on mental health, breast cancer, or dialysis and kidney treatment. Some peopled got fit with Line Dance and Cardio Dance Sessions with Sweat Jess or enjoyed an early morning yoga session with Everybody Yoga. All of Us Research. Our SUSLA Mobile Unit, the Ameri Health Mobile Wellness Center, and Life Share Blood Center, were also on site.













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Priority Enhancing Customer Service and Stewardship of Place

Campus Beautification & Walk for Humanity

Dr. Aubra Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University along with faculty, staff, alumni and community partners took on a campus beautification project to kick off Investiture Week. Participants rolled up their sleeves as they freshened up key areas around campus. The Institute for Global Outreach also hosted its annual Walk for Humanity on SUSLA's campus.























Cultivating Relationships Between Faculty and Staff

Wellness Wednesday

It is the first TEDx TED Talk at Southern University at Shreveport. TEDx Licensee/Organizer Yuvette Allen and Dr. Anjelica Hart, Presenter held The Traveling Suitcase, Unloading Your Mental Baggage on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Dr. Hart gave a profound and emotional presentation of her personal and professional journey and expert advice to a live audience of 52 attendees on mental health. It can be accessed on the TEDx YouTube Channel as well as the TEDx website. I will send the link once the editing is completed.













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Dennis J. Shields, President & Secretary to the Board of Supervisors

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Dr. Lonnie McCray Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Workforce Development

Dr. Devonye Brown
Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Dr. Veloria Nance Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration

Ms. Cheryl D. Taylor Chief Advancement Officer

Ms. Brandy Jacobsen Chief Finance Officer

Dr. John Galiotos
Dean of Workforce Development & Associate Professor of Chemistry

Ms. Carolyn Miller Deputy CIO Enterprise Systems



The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the Office of the Chancellor

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