

# Chancellor's Report



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

VOLUME 5

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# SUSLA IS AWARDED \$250,000 FROM AEP FOUNDATION



The award is part of an HBCU Collaborative for Academic Achievement and STEM Education initiative, in cooperation with five universities throughout the southwest region served by American Electric Power. The purpose of the award is to strengthen STEM Education in the service territories served by AEP.

While the grants were written around a central theme of enhancing STEM education achievement, each institution submitted individual grant applications based on the goals of their STEM programs and meeting the needs of their respective communities. The SUSLA grant was championed by representatives of the regional AEP-SWEPCO office Mr. Brian Bond, Vice-President of External Affairs and supported by Mr. Michael Corbin, Manager of External Affairs. The grant represents the largest single award to SUSLA from AEP.

“The gift is part of the foundation’s Delivering on the Dream: Social and Racial Justice grant program, which is a five-year, \$5 million commitment to fund organizations with programs dedicated to advancing social and racial justice in communities American Electric Power (Nasdaq: AEP) serves. “SWEPCO also is dedicated to building brighter futures for the communities where we live and work and remains committed to advancing justice and equity for our neighbors of color,” said Malcolm Smoak, president and chief operating officer of SWEPCO, a subsidiary of AEP that provides funding to the AEP Foundation.

The award will allow Southern University at Shreveport to establish the STEM Academy which will have two tracks: 1) **Dual Enrollment for High School Students** and 2) **Unemployed and Under-Employed Adults**.

A key component of the Academy will be the STEM Mobile Lab. The mobile lab will be fully equipped with advanced technology. The Mobile Lab will travel to schools in rural and underserved communities providing students with hands on STEM explorations in robotics, AI and 3-D printing technologies.

SUSLA’s Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis states, “We could not be more excited and appreciative of this award from AEP Foundation. We also want to thank our friends at SWEPCO for their support and vision. With this investment, students, especially those in lower income urban and rural communities, will have a chance to explore careers that many of them never considered. This program will also help adults who have been wondering how to restart their careers and get their lives back on track...”

Led by their respective Advancement and STEM leadership, institutional members of the collaborative consist of: Jarvis Christian College (Collaborative Team Lead), Wiley College, Southern University at Shreveport, Langston University and Bluefield State College.

# HOME FEDERAL BANK INVESTS \$50,000 IN THE ROY GRIGGS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Home Federal Bank (HFB) has pledged \$50,000 to support the Roy Griggs School of Business (RGSB) at Southern University at Shreveport. On June 29, 2021, Bank representatives presented Chancellor Ellis with the first installment check of \$10,000 toward the overall pledge. HFB's pledge is part of a \$2 Million major gift campaign announced by Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis at the SU System Board Meeting in Shreveport in April. The project supports a bold new direction for transforming learning and degree attainment through the Business Department, while honoring local businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Mr. Roy Griggs for whom the program will be named. Mr. Griggs, who serves as lead donor of the project, has a long history of service to the community and, has added greatly to the growth and economic stability of the business landscape of the region through his 13 McDonald's Restaurants in Northwest Louisiana (and 5 in east Texas).

"HFB is proud to partner with Roy Griggs, one of Northwest Louisiana's most influential business leaders, in supporting this community-based scholarship program designed to educate future local business leaders. We are committed to helping educate the future business leaders of our community." James R. Barlow, Chairman of the Board, President and CEO of Home Federal Bank. Citizens seeking to compete for rewarding, high-paying careers will benefit from the program. Specific goals of the Business Department, as outlined in a new strategic plan introduced by Dr. Regina Webb and members of the Business Department include: "Increasing Access" through Scholarships; Ensuring Success through (faculty) talent acquisition and retention and Bridging the Digital Divide by investing in state-of-the-art technology in equipment, business software and programs and; Increasing Equity through financial literacy, empowerment, and degree attainment.

"Thank you for your support and for investing in the Roy Griggs School of Business at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA). The future is indeed a very bright one for our students and this great community. Giving to SUSLA is not just about making a donation, it is about changing the trajectory in the lives of our students. Thank you, Home Federal Bank for changing lives." Dr. Regina Webb, Business Studies Chair & Associate Professor for SUSLA.

Born and raised in Meridian, Ms. Mr. Griggs is the most successful African American McDonald's Franchise owner in Northwest Louisiana. For nearly four decades, Mr. Griggs has worked as a Franchisee to build a successful career. He has mentored many toward success in professional, business and management careers. As a philanthropist, Mr. Griggs shares generously of his earnings, contributing millions to support those in need and to improve his community. He employs over 700 citizens at his restaurants, retaining them on payroll throughout the pandemic to ensure financial stability. In June, 2021, The Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce presented Mr. Roy Griggs with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his career accomplishments and service to community.

Chancellor Rodney Ellis states, "The Roy Griggs success story is an American success story. His background of humble beginnings closely resembles that of most of the students who attend our school. With this recent investment from Home Federal Bank and other partners, we are proud to honor his work and, that his story will become a part of the SUSLA story".

# SUSLA TRiO UPWARD BOUND EXPERIENCES BLACK GIRL MAGIC



TRiO Upward Bound North and South students, Program Directors Ernest Flowers (Upward Bound North) and Rebecca Gillam (Upward Bound South) decided to visit the newly established Black Girls Magic Museum as an opportunity to instill cultural enrichment to our students. The Black Girls Magic Museum, home to over 10 African-American Women exhibits, provided an interactive immersive Instagram worthy pop up museum to Upward Bound participants, parents, and staff, while learning about the brilliance of black women. Black Girl Magic Museum is a nostalgic, educational, Instagram worthy Museum. The Black Girl Magic Museum is composed of 40% educational murals, 40% props and 20 % interactive activities. The Black Girls Magic Museum is located at 509 Market St, Shreveport, LA 71101. [www.blackgirlmagicmuseum.com](http://www.blackgirlmagicmuseum.com).

The Federal TRiO Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRiO includes outreach and support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college and disabled students to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to baccalaureate programs. These programs are funded by the U. S. Department of Education.



# THE WILLIAMS CENTER HOSTS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WITH ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Williams Center's Advisory Board of Directors met on Thursday, July 9, 2021 virtually. Board directors in attendance were the audience for informative and dynamic presentations by WCUSA Director Ted Scott and SUSLA Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis. Director Scott addressed the report and recommendations resulting from the evaluation conducted by the Robert W. Walter Leadership and Public Policy Center (Howard University). He also provided statistical data on current participation in the Williams Scholars Program. Dr. Ellis provided insights on factors affecting national recruitment and retention as well as his vision for Williams Scholars program enhancements. Both presentations were essential in helping guide the Board in formulating efforts to support the recruitment, enrollment, mentoring, retention and graduation of Williams Scholars. Board Chair and directors extended appreciation to Director Ted Scott and Dr. Rodney Ellis.

Director Scott accepted ex officio appointment to the Programs Liaison Committee which is chaired by WCUSA Founder Tina Williams. Dr. Ellis accepted ex officio appointment to the Board.

Interested parties, current and prospective stakeholders may access the Williams Center webpage, click [here](#).

# SUSLA CELEBRATES STEM CAMP PARTICIPANTS WITH A CLOSING CEREMONY — SCIENCE FAIR & AWARDS/RECOGNITION



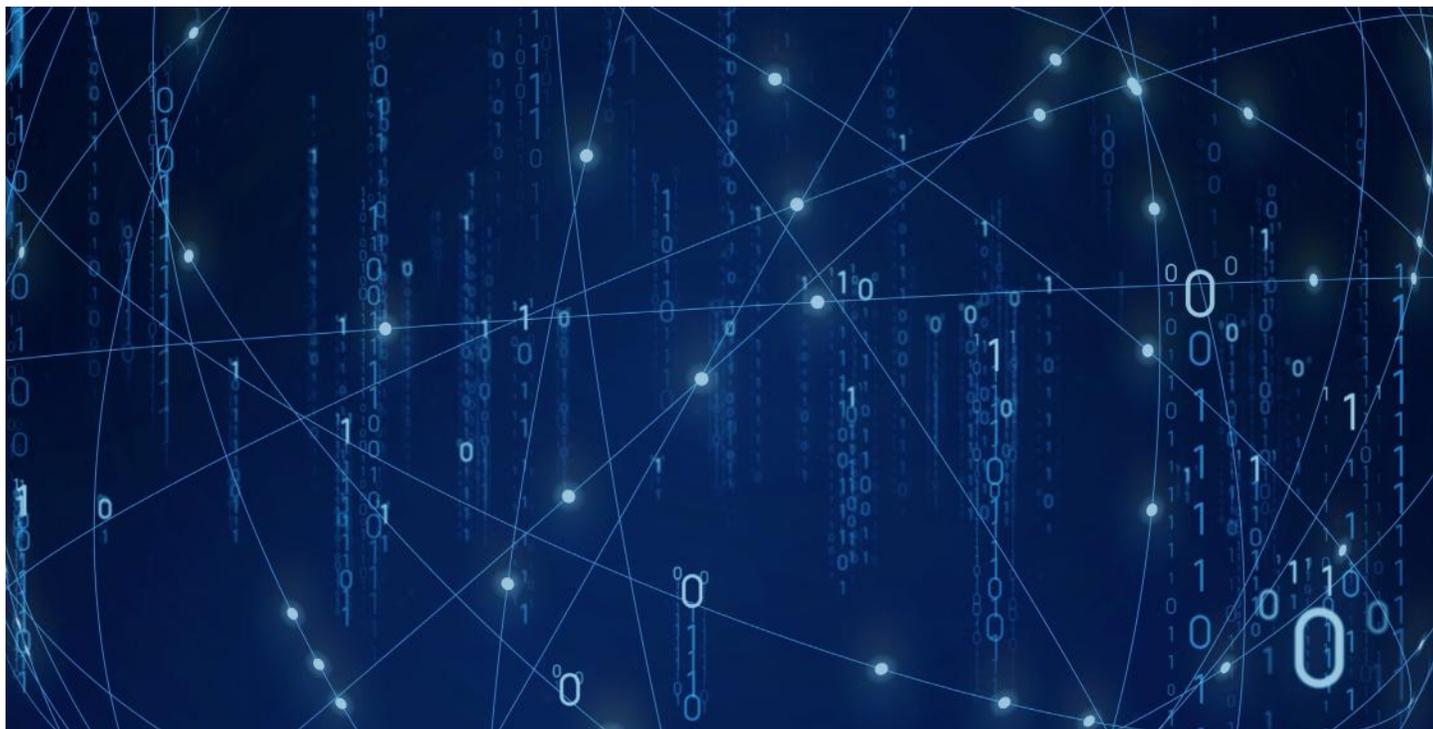
You are invited to

## SUSLA STEM CAMP CLOSING CEREMONY

**FRIDAY, JULY 16TH | 1:30 PM | ALPHONSE JACKSON BLDG.  
CLASSROOM NO. 132**

Come see all of the interesting experiments and projects  
that the students have completed.

# SUSLA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: PROMETHEAN ACTIVPANEL TITANIUM BOARD



Southern University at Shreveport is committed to academic technology innovation. If COVID-19 has taught us anything in higher education, it has taught us that the traditional classroom setting has expanded to include distance learning, hybrid learning, synchronous, and asynchronous instructional models. Recently, we partnered with AXI Education Solutions to purchase, install, and train faculty to use the Promethean ActivPanel Titanium Board to assist us on our path towards academic innovation.

The smart classroom is a digitally equipped classroom with a variety of teaching and learning methods using technology that gives teachers and students the ability to integrate smart devices (tablets, phones, laptops, etc.) into instruction and learning. This includes hybrid technology that merges traditional in-person learning with distance/remote learning, bringing remote learners back into the classroom. With the recent purchase of 20 Promethean ActivPanel Titanium Boards in addition to 6 previously existing Promethean Boards, Southern University at Shreveport has catapulted to provide Smart Classroom instruction and learning. These boards have been installed throughout SUSLA campuses.

The Promethean ActivPanel Titanium Board boasts an 86" touchscreen, wireless keyboard and mouse compatibility, USB inputs (2.0, 3.0, and USB C), HDMI inputs, and external camera input. All of these features allow for multiple ways for instructors to display instruction material. Utilizing the Android Operating System, instructional and educational apps can be downloaded into the Promethean Board via the Google Play Store. With many other features too large in number to list in the brevity of this article, SUSLA is embarking upon cutting edge technology in providing Smart Classroom technology to our students.

Brandon Keith Lacey, Sr., Online/Distance Education Tech Support for the E-Learning Department, and Veronica, Representative for AXI Education Solutions, conducted a Promethean Training for Dean Jo-Ann Brown and the Division of Allied Health & Nursing. The training was held at the Southern University at Shreveport Metro Campus and covered the basic functions of the Promethean ActivPanel.

Additional trainings will be scheduled with the following:

- Dean Lonnie McCray and the Division of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Education
- Dean Barry Hester and the Division of Business, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Recordings of all professional development training can be located in the Moodle Faculty Resource Center. As we look to build upon the excitement revolving around the addition of the Promethean ActivPanel installations, we look forward to providing more updates regarding SUSLA's Smart Classroom initiative.

# WELCOME OUR JULY 2021 NEW HIRES AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT



Tiera Smothers  
*Enrollment Specialist*  
**SAEM**

Shneka M. Lee  
*Human Resources Generalist*  
**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Colton Wiggins  
*Director of Polysomnography*  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & CWD**

Crystal Marshall  
*Veterans Upward Bound Specialist*  
**STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

Letitia Jacobs  
*Records & Registration Coordinator/VA Benefits*  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & CWD**

## **TRANSFER/PROMOTION**

Contika Shyne  
*Program Director of Respiratory Therapy*  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & CWD**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SUSLA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS FOR THEIR SIGNED ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO WILEY COLLEGE



Brianasia Owens and Diamond Hawthorne have signed athletic scholarships to Wiley College in Marshall Texas for the 2021-2022 women's basketball season. Brianasia Owens and Diamond Hawthorne are both sophomores here at SUSLA and they have both been the leading scorers and rebounders for the past two seasons with the SUSLA Lady Jags. Brianasia was named freshman of the year for the 2019-2020 season and Diamond was named Sophomore of the year for the 2020-2021 season. Both Brianasia and Diamond made the LCCAC 2020-2021 All Conference 2nd team along with being nominated for All Region 23. Brianasia and Diamond are the first two young women from SUSLA to receive athletic scholarships within the last 7 years.



The Chancellor’s Report is a monthly publication from the  
Office of the Chancellor  
Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor

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