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## Rodney A., Ed.D ELLIS Appointed HBCU

### PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY BOARD

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**Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D**  
**CHANCELLOR**  
**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY at SHREVEPORT**

## SUSLA CHANCELLOR APPOINTED TO PRESIDENT'S HBCU ADVISORY BOARD

President Donald J. Trump recently announced his intent to appoint SUSLA Chancellor, Dr. Rodney A. Ellis as a member of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have made, and continue to make, extraordinary contributions to the general welfare and prosperity of our country. The President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities was created as part of the White House initiative to promote excellence and innovation at HBCUs.

Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., CEO of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and former Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMC) President and CEO, was appointed in February of this year to chair the advisory board that has been historically comprised of presidents, higher education experts, business leaders, and activists. Taylor will work closely with the advisory board and Johnathan M. Holifield, Executive Director of White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, to shape the national agenda for HBCUs.

Dr. Ellis also serves on the Louisiana Advisory Board for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Louisiana's Advisory Board is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents. This board focuses on ways to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to provide the highest quality education, increase opportunities for HBCUs to participate in and benefit from state programs, and ensure that Louisiana has the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the country.

According to a 2017 economic impact report from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the 101 public and private HBCUs in the United States enroll nearly 300,000 students. Eighty percent of these students are African-American, and 70 percent are from low-income families. According to the report, HBCUs produce a total economic impact of \$14.8 billion. Every dollar spent by HBCUs and their students generates \$1.44 for the local and regional economies. In addition, HBCUs have added 57,868 on-campus jobs and 76,222 off-campus jobs to the local and regional job market.

Dr. Ellis believes that strengthening HBCUs is not only a social necessity, but an economic imperative for a viable state and country. A key focus of the board is to increase the private sector role in strengthening HBCUs, with emphasis on enhancing institutional infrastructure and facilitating planning, development, and the use of new technologies.

Dr. Ellis is one of thirteen newly appointed members to the HBCU board.

**Aminta H. Breaux of Maryland**

**James E. Clark of Florida**

**Phyllis Dawkins of North Carolina**

**Rodney A. Ellis of Louisiana**

**Marshall C. Grigsby of Maryland**

**Billy Harkins of Alabama**

**Jerry M. Hunter of Missouri**

**Nickolas Justice of North Carolina**

**Ronald A. Johnson of Georgia**

**Harold L. Martin Sr. of North Carolina**

**Bernard J. Milano of New Jersey**

**Connie Rath of Nebraska**

**Kevin Wilson Williams of Tennessee**



Dr. Ellis with U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy

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*“This is an important opportunity to bring the voice of all Louisiana HBCU’s to the table to inform and influence policy that directly affects our institutions, said Dr. Ellis, SUSLA Chancellor. “I am honored to be nominated to serve on the President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and to support the long-term viability and enhancement of HBCUs.”*

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SCHOLARSHIP  
SHOUT-OUT

50,000

## SUSLA STUDENT WINS \$50,000 SCHOLARSHIP LIVE ON ELLEN SHOW



SUSLA student Jacob Peterson has big dreams and thanks to a \$50,000 scholarship he is one step closer to making his dreams come true. Last year Nicki Minaj announced on the Ellen Show she was giving away scholarships to college students. He took a chance and wrote a letter in to the Ellen Show that told the story of his life as a child and the challenges he has faced while trying to pursue a college education. He poured out his story on the page and just hoped for the best. He was shocked to get a call from the show asking him to come out and be a VIP guest. What Jacob didn't know was that this VIP treatment was not the only big surprise in his immediate future.

He joined two other student guests for a backstage VIP tour and when he was seated for the show to start, he was just excited to be there. The show was almost over

when Nicki Minaj and Ellen mentioned one of Jacob's social media accounts, joking that he had not responded to a message from Nicki.

While Jacob was frantically checking his phone, scrolling through his social media account, Nicki and Ellen made their way up to him in the audience to break the amazing news. ***"First I was shocked. I was completely shocked", said Jacob.***

He was presented with a check for a \$50,000 scholarship funded through Nicki Minaj and Walmart.

Jacob is majoring in music and wants to perform to sold-out arenas one day. His dream is to perform on multiple stages across the world. He plans to use the funds to help fuel that dream by continuing his education here at SUSLA and then possibly going on to Southern in Baton Rouge.

## Louisiana Board of Regents Commissioner of Higher Education Holds Higher Ed Roundtable at SUSLA



Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Kim Hunter Reed recently traveled to Shreveport to hear what students, faculty, and staff had to say about the state of higher education in Louisiana. Dr. Reed began the discussion with an introduction that detailed what brought her to the position and what her goals were as the new commissioner. She addressed issues regarding access to education, quality of resources, and challenges facing non-traditional and first generation students specifically.



(Pictured l to r): Commissioner, Dr. Kim Reed, Beatrice Wright SGA President and Caitlyn Jones, Miss SUSLA

The SGA President and Miss SUSLA led the student discussion session by sharing their own personal journeys and challenges and asking questions that related to tuition and the TOPS program.

SUSLA Chancellor, Dr. Ellis thanked the participants and shared with Dr. Reed all that SUSLA's Student Success Center does to help support our students with a special emphasis on first generation students.

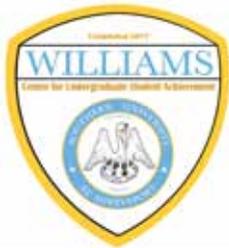
We were also joined by students from LSU who asked specific questions about Allied Health programs and the rising cost of education to become a doctor or medical practitioner. Student loan debt and the availability of employment opportunities after graduation were also major issues for many of the students who spoke during the roundtable event.

Dr. Reed ended the event by asking several of the students to stand up and share what course of study they were currently pursuing and what led them to make their choice in major and institution.



Dr. Ellis with opening remarks and greetings to participants.





## SUSLA LAUNCHES WILLIAMS CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Over 100 community leaders, administrators, alumni, supporters, and friends braved the rainy weather Saturday, September 8th to join SUSLA at the Shreveport Aquarium for the launch of the new Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement (WCUSA).

This initiative is designed to reverse national and local trends of fewer minority males graduating from college. The Center will focus on “at-risk” or “opportunity” minority males who have the aptitude and desire to succeed but may be discouraged by other factors in the student’s life. However, any incoming student who seeks an opportunity for positive change may be served.



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(Pictured l to r:) SU Alums, Tina and Tony Williams and Dr. Ellis

SU Alums Tony and Tina Williams generously pledged a seed gift of \$50,000 to help establish the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement at SUSLA. Tony Williams was raised in the MLK neighborhood just blocks from the front doors of SUSLA. Mr. Williams broke the cycle of poverty by attending SUSLA and then continuing his education at SU A&M College in Baton Rouge. There he obtained his undergraduate degree, which led him to a successful business career in the corporate world and as a prosperous entrepreneur.

The event began with greetings from SUSLA Chancellor, Dr. Rodney A. Ellis who welcomed the large crowd and thanked the community, alumni, friends, and Southern University System leadership for their commitment to the success of the new initiative.

He was followed by the Assistant Vice-Chancellor for the Student Success Center, Major Brock who shared startling statistics on undergraduate male achievement and laid out a compelling case for the importance of the wrap around supports and mentoring the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement (WCUSA) will offer male students on the SUSLA campus.

Tony and Tina Williams both shared their personal experiences with Southern and the larger vision that they believe the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement (WCUSA) can achieve to reshape the city and the lives of young men.

Ted Scott, Director of Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement shared the mission of the initiative. The highlight of the event was the presentation by Dr. Melva Williams, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management of the first cohort of young men chosen for the program.

The program conclude with a call to action for participants to support the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement with their time, talents, and resources.

The initiative is currently recruiting students and seeking additional support. For more information on how you can support the work of the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement, contact Ted Scott, Director of WCUSA at [tscott@susla.edu](mailto:tscott@susla.edu).



(Pictured l to r:) Ted Scott, Williams Center Director and Major Brock, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success

# SUSLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS FOUNDING MEMBERS WITH PINNING CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

The charter members of the SUSLA Alumni Association were recognized Friday, September 7th during the Founder's Pinning Ceremony and Luncheon held at the Petroleum Club in downtown Shreveport.



**SUSLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

**(L to R):** Dr. Melva Williams, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Stephanie Rogers Chief Advancement Officer/Campus Liaison for Alumni Affairs, Ex-Officio Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Registered Agent/Chancellor, SUSLA, Pamela N. Kirksey, Vice President of Membership, Tichina Williams, Vice President of Alumni Affairs (Chapter), Charles Johnson, Executive Vice President, Tina Williams, Vice President of Finance/Treasurer, Anthony "Tony" Williams, President and James Brown, Executive Advisor

Alumni Association President, Tony Williams opened the luncheon, followed by SUSLA Chancellor, Dr. Rodney A. Ellis who offered a special welcome to the National President of the Southern University Alumni Federation, Ms. LaQuitta Thomas. The crowd was moved by a beautiful acapella version of the Southern Alma Mater performed by Ms. Brenda Wimberly. James Brown, Executive Advisor and Southern A & M Graduate expounded on the purpose of the Alumni Association and ended his speech to a standing ovation.

Alumni, administrators, faculty, staff, and students all shared in celebrating the outstanding commitment to SUSLA shared by all the members as they received their annual and lifetime member pins.



**PARTNER WITH US. Become a member or make a pledge of support to help sustain access to excellence in academic and workforce training at Southern University at Shreveport.**

**GO TO [WWW.SUSLA.EDU](http://WWW.SUSLA.EDU) TO**

*Make your pledge today!*

# NEW EMPLOYEE Welcome & PROMOTION

On behalf of the entire administration, faculty, staff and students WELCOME TO JAGUAR NATION!



Jamar Myers Montgomery  
Adjunct Professor of Political Science



Nathan Tabor  
Adjunct to Clinical Coordinator



Cynthia Jenkins  
Program Coordinator



LaShonda Wiggina  
Tutorial Coordinator

## JAGUAR of the MONTH

Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D., Chancellor recognizes Mr. Bobby Rhines as “Jaguar of the Month”



Mr. Bobby Rhines who is known as simply “Mr. Bobby” has worked in maintenance at the Metro Campus for 19 years. During those years he has received multiple complements from staff and faculty alike for his commitment and level of dedication to the work. Mr. Bobby is always available to help with anything when someone at the Metro needs help. One metro employee describes him as, “*the most diligent, devoted, and dutiful employee that I’ve seen at this institution who prides himself on meeting the immediate needs of the faculty, staff, and students as he maintains this campus.*” Mr. Bobby exhibits the spirit of a true servant, who does not allow the deficiencies in supplies, resources and/or accommodations to prevent him from giving 110%. We are blessed to have him as a Jaguar and proud to announce him as the “*Jag of the Month*”.

## CONGRATULATIONS Student of the Month

Jacob Peterson is an active member of the cheer squad here at SUSLA and a music major with big dreams. As the recent recipient of a \$50,000 scholarship, he is more focused than ever on achieving his dreams. Jacob came to SUSLA from Texas, after also pursuing and education in Mississippi. Jacob’s choice to make Louisiana and SUSLA his final institution to attend school has been a positive one. In his time here, Jacob has inspired and entertained his fellow students and he looks forward to the next steps in his education at SUSLA and beyond.

### Jacob Peterson

Jacob Peterson is an active member of the cheer squad here at SUSLA and a music major with big dreams. As the recent recipient of a \$50,000 scholarship, he is more focused than ever on achieving his



A large, stylized pink ribbon graphic is centered in the upper half of the image. It is a continuous loop that forms a heart-like shape, with the word 'OCTOBER' overlaid on it. The ribbon has a slight 3D effect with shadows.

OCTOBER

*is*

BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS MONTH

For more information on upcoming events, contact -  
Krista Snell, Director of Marketing  
(318) 670-9472 or [ksnell@susla.edu](mailto:ksnell@susla.edu)



Southern University Shreveport  
*Foundation*  
"Meeting Needs and Making a Difference."

# PORT CITY CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT



October 8, 2018

Crooked Hollow Golf Course  
8667 Elysian Fields Road  
Greenwood, LA

Shotgun 8:30 am  
Four-man scramble

**For more information, contact:**

**318-670-9861 / 9682**

email: [eowens@susla.edu](mailto:eowens@susla.edu) or  
[fwilliams@susla.edu](mailto:fwilliams@susla.edu)



# SAVE THE DATE

*November 1, 2018* ✦ *7:00 pm*



*Crowning Ceremony*

*Miss Southern University Shreveport*  
2018-2019

MISS CAITLYN JONES

# 45TH ANNUAL



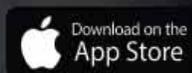
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Leslie R. McClellon, Chief Administrative Officer

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Southern University System

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Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Tuesday W. Mahoney,  
Johnny L. Vance, Jr. Student Activity Center, Room 208, (318) 670-9201.

Section 504 Coordinator: Jerushka Ellis,  
Health & Physical Education Complex, Room 314, (318) 670-9367.



Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D  
**CHANCELLOR**

### EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS

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Brandy Jacobsen  
Larry Ferdinand  
Leslie R. McClellon  
Dr. Regina Robinson  
Stephanie K. Rogers  
Janice Sneed  
Frank Williams, Jr.  
Dr. Melva K. Williams  
Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams

### CHANCELLOR'S CABINET MEMBERS

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Major Brock  
Devonye Brown  
JoAnn Warren-Brown  
Darrin Dixon  
Beatrice Wright (SGA)  
Angelique Feaster-Evans  
Rebecca Gilliam  
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