



# Chancellor's Report

November 2025



# 7 Strategic Goals

## REIMAGINE SUSLA



Foster a Climate of Academic Excellence



Increase Enrollment

## REIMAGINE SUSLA



Enhance Customer Service & Stewardship of Place



## REIMAGINE SUSLA



Adopt a Student-Centered Approach

Attract & Retain Qualified Faculty & Staff

## REIMAGINE SUSLA

Promote a Culture of Institutional Effectiveness



## REIMAGINE SUSLA



Improve Infrastructure, Facilities, Finance, and Resources

# CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable events that have shaped our campus community throughout November and the beginning of December. It has been a vibrant season filled with celebration, gratitude, and a deep commitment to service.

One of the highlights was our coronation, where we celebrated the crowning of the 52nd Miss SUSLA, Nina Brown. Her grace and leadership embody the spirit of our institution, and we are excited to see how she will continue to represent and uplift our university community.

Additionally, we were proud to host several scholarship check presentations, recognizing the achievements of our hardworking students. These scholarships provide invaluable support, by helping our students pursue their educational aspirations and reach their full potential.

We also visited Galilee Baptist Church for SUSLA Sunday, where we gathered for inspiring fellowship and had the opportunity to bond with the community while sharing great things about SUSLA. Our commitment to community service was further demonstrated through our food donation to Christian Services and our toy donations to the Salvation Army, ensuring that those in need have a brighter holiday season.

Together, we are making a difference, and I am grateful for the dedication and compassion that our students, faculty, and staff bring to our university. Let's keep this momentum going as we look forward to the new year.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season!  
Warm regards,

*Dr. A.J. Gant*

**Dr. Aubra J. Gant**  
Chancellor

# Fall Festival

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) hosted its annual Fall Festival treating students, faculty, and staff to an afternoon of food, music, games, and giveaways. The event provided a perfect opportunity for our SUSLA community to come together and celebrate the season.

Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt added to the excitement by giving away 50 tickets to the highly anticipated 52nd Bayou Classic game to lucky students. The Student Government Association (SGA) and Miss SUSLA further enhanced the festivities by distributing door prizes throughout the event.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, from fall-themed games to lively music, creating a vibrant and spirited atmosphere on campus. The festival served as an energy boost and a chance for the SUSLA family to connect and enjoy each other's company.

The Fall Festival exemplifies SUSLA's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and providing memorable experiences for our students, faculty, and staff.



# Fall Festival



# SUSLA's Fall 2025 Community Service

In a heartwarming gesture of gratitude and community spirit, Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt of Southern University at Shreveport, accompanied by members of the Student Government Association (SGA), faculty, and staff, visited Mr. Joseph Anderson, Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy Principal to celebrate and honor the hard work of him and his faculty and staff with a special appreciation lunch.

Lunch was served to Green Oaks Preforming Arts Academy's educators and support staff, acknowledging their dedication and outstanding contributions to shaping young minds. The event, part of SUSLA's Fall 2025 Community Service initiative, emphasized the importance of collaboration and mutual support between educational institutions.

Chancellor Gantt expressed her admiration for the Green Oaks team, highlighting the vital role they play in fostering creativity and academic excellence. "Our educators lay the foundation for future success, and it is essential that we recognize and support their efforts," stated Dr. Gantt

The SGA members, alongside SUSLA faculty and staff, actively participated in serving lunch, engaging in conversations, and sharing in the festive atmosphere. This initiative reflected SUSLA's commitment to community engagement and its dedication to building strong, supportive educational networks.



# SUSLA's Fall 2025 Community Service



# **SUSLA Students Awarded Thurgood Marshall Scholarships**

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is proud to announce that three of its outstanding students—Preshia Webster, Diamond Whitaker, and Jeffrey Slater—were each awarded a prestigious Thurgood Marshall Scholarship during their recent participation in the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Award and Workforce Development Summit.

The students were accompanied by a dedicated team from SUSLA, demonstrating the university's commitment to student professional development and career readiness. Attendees included Dr. Kimberly Harvell, Executive Director of Workforce Development & Continuing Education; Yvette Allen, Academic Advisor for the Department of Arts & Humanities, Social Behavioral Sciences and Education (AHSSE); and Micah Jackson, TRIO Educational Advocate.

The summit provided an invaluable platform for students to forge critical industry connections and hone practical skills essential for their future careers. Preshia Webster, Diamond Whitaker, and Jeffrey Slater actively engaged with a diverse array of industry partners and participated in expert-led workshops and simulations designed to enhance their professional competencies.

"This summit represents a cornerstone opportunity for our students to not only gain exposure to leading industries but also to acquire tangible skills that will set them apart," stated Dr. Kimberly Harvell. "We are immensely proud of Preshia, Diamond, and Jeffrey for their exceptional achievements and for securing these well-deserved Thurgood Marshall Scholarships, which are a testament to their hard work and promising futures."

The receipt of these scholarships underscores the academic excellence and leadership potential within SUSLA's student body. The university remains dedicated to empowering its students with the resources and experiences necessary to thrive in an evolving global workforce.

# SUSLA Students Awarded Thurgood Marshall Scholarships



## **SUSLA'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT VISITS PINE GROVE ELEMENTARY TO READ TO THE KIDS**

Southern University at Shreveport's (SUSLA) Education Department proudly partnered with Pine Grove Elementary for a heartwarming "Snuggle Up and Read: A Books & Blanket Event" on Friday, November 21, 2025, fostering a love for reading among young students.

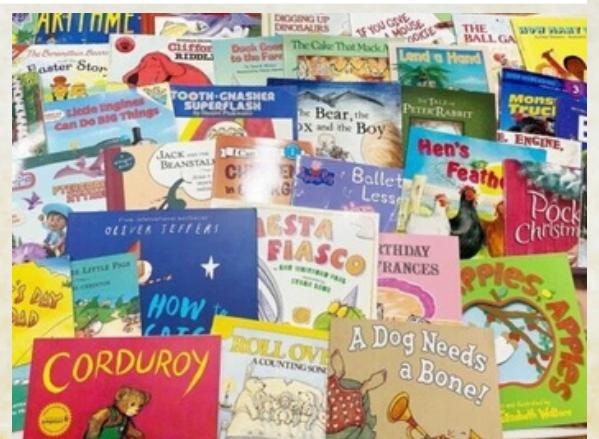
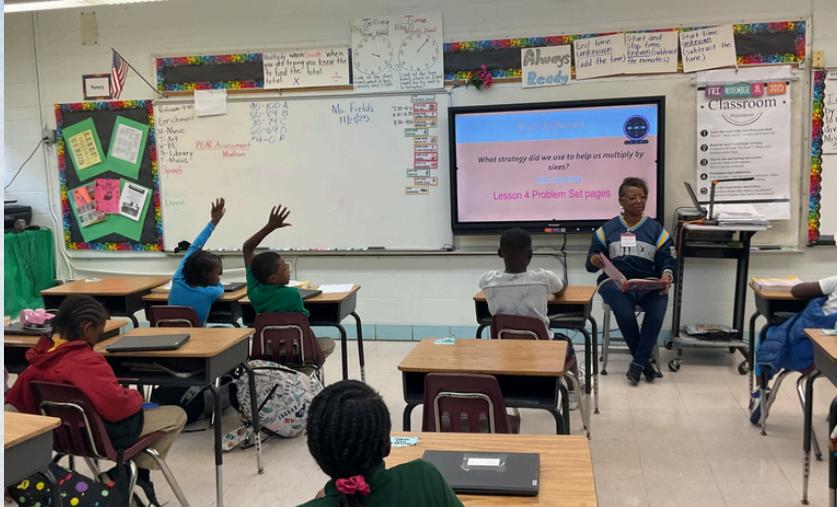
The initiative saw SUSLA students Henrietta Brown, Latricia Randall, and Marquise Allen, along with Yvette Allen, Academic Advisor for the Department of Arts & Humanities, Social Behavioral Sciences and Education (AHSSE), captivate young minds by reading several fun and educational books. The enthusiastic audience consisted of 3rd through 5th graders at Pine Grove Elementary School.

Dr. Michael Hicks, Chair of Education at SUSLA, emphasized the dual benefits of the event. "This was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen SUSLA's partnership within the community while simultaneously promoting our Elementary Education Teaching Grades 1-5 and Early Childhood Education Programs," Dr. Hicks stated. "Engaging directly with these students helps illustrate the impact and rewards of a career in education, hopefully inspiring some to pursue teaching themselves."

The "Snuggle Up and Read" event not only brought joy and learning to Pine Grove Elementary but also powerfully demonstrated SUSLA's dedication to community service and educational outreach. Through such initiatives, the university continues to inspire future generations and build strong, impactful relationships within Shreveport.

# **SUSLA'S Education Department**

## **Visits Pine Grove Elementary to read to the kids**



# SUSLA SUNDAY

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently strengthened its ties with the local community during a special SUSLA Sunday event, featuring a heartfelt fellowship at Galilee Baptist Church. Led by Pastor Craig B. Collier, Sr., the gathering united Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt, along with SUSLA students, faculty, and staff, with the congregation in a powerful display of unity and shared purpose.

During the service, Chancellor Gantt expressed profound appreciation for the unwavering support from the church community. She highlighted SUSLA's ongoing commitment to empowering students through quality education and strengthening vital partnerships within the Shreveport region, emphasizing the mutual benefits of such collaborations.

Beyond the inspiring fellowship, SUSLA maximized the day as a strategic recruitment opportunity. A dedicated information table, adorned with university literature and engaging giveaways, was prominently set up outside the sanctuary. This initiative allowed SUSLA representatives to directly engage with congregation members, introducing them to the diverse academic programs, vibrant campus life, and accessible educational pathways available at the university.

This successful SUSLA Sunday not only deepened the university's connection with the local faith community but also effectively promoted accessible educational opportunities. By emphasizing shared values of service, education, and community development, the event significantly strengthened the relationship between SUSLA and its faith partners, laying solid groundwork for promising future collaborations and continued regional impact.



# SUSLA SUNDAY



# SUSLA Donates to Christian Services

Southern University at Shreveport's (SUSLA) dedicated faculty and staff recently concluded a spectacularly successful non-perishable food drive, culminating in a significant donation to Christian Services! This heartwarming initiative showcased the unwavering commitment of the SUSLA family to making a tangible difference in the local community.

With an exciting call to action, the SUSLA campus transformed into a hub of generosity as faculty and staff enthusiastically collected an impressive array of canned goods, pasta, rice, and other essential non-perishable items. The sheer volume of donations reflects the deep-seated compassion within the university community.

"Our faculty and staff consistently go above and beyond, not just in their professional roles, but also in their dedication to service," exclaimed Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Southern University at Shreveport Chancellor. "This remarkable effort to support Christian Services is a powerful testament to the caring spirit that defines SUSLA. We are thrilled to contribute to such a vital organization that impacts so many lives in our community."

The collected bounty was presented to Christian Services, an organization renowned for its tireless work in aiding individuals and families facing food insecurity and other critical needs in the Shreveport area. These donations will directly help stock shelves and provide nourishing meals during a time when support is most needed.

SUSLA extends its deepest gratitude to every faculty and staff member who contributed to this outstanding success. This initiative is a shining example of how collective action and heartfelt generosity can create a ripple effect of positive change, reinforcing SUSLA's role as a vibrant and responsible community partner.

# SUSLA Donates to Christian Services



# Salvation Army Angel Tree

The spirit of giving is soaring high at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA)! In a heartwarming display of community dedication, SUSLA's incredible students, faculty, and staff adopted 35 angels from The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program this year, ensuring a truly magical holiday season for dozens of local children.

The carefully selected gifts from wished-for toys to essential items were dropped off to The Salvation Army. Each donation represents a beacon of hope and a promise of joy for children who might otherwise go without this Christmas.

The collective effort showcases SUSLA's deep commitment to its community and embodies the very essence of the holiday spirit. "We are absolutely thrilled by the overwhelming participation and compassion shown by our students, faculty, and staff," expressed Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor. "Their dedication will undoubtedly transform the holidays for these children, turning their dreams into a reality."

A tremendous thank you goes out to every single person who participated in this magnificent initiative. Your generosity is lighting up the season and making a profound difference in the lives of 35 precious angels!



# Southern University at Shreveport

## Foundation Scholarship

The Southern University at Shreveport Foundation under the leadership of Mr. Frank Williams, proudly held the Norma J. Blake Scholarship Check Presentation on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, honoring Ms. Jayla Oliver, Fall 2025 recipient of the \$1,000 Norma J. Blake Scholarship and distinguished senior-level nursing student.

The ceremony opened with a warm greeting from Dr. Aubra Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, highlighting the importance of student success, educational access, and the enduring legacy of Ms. Norma J. Blake. Ms. Monica Blake Mickles, daughter of Ms. Norma J. Blake, was present to represent the family and share in this meaningful celebration.

A special thank you is extended to the Norma J. Blake Scholarship Committee, Dean JoAnn Brown, Mrs. Daphne Thibeaux, Ms. Tiffany Varner, Mrs. Terri Johnson and Ms. Venus Ammons, for their commitment to the selection process and continued support of student achievement.

Congratulations to Ms. Jayla Oliver on her academic excellence, leadership, and dedication to the nursing profession!



# CareSouth Scholarship

The Southern University at Shreveport Division of Allied Health Sciences and Nursing proudly celebrated our ongoing commitment to educational excellence and our valuable ongoing partnerships with healthcare organizations. Established by Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt last year, this partnership exemplifies SUSLA's dedication to fostering collaborations that benefit our students and community.

During the ceremony, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of SUSLA, thanked Mr. Valliere, CareSouth Board members for their generosity and willingness to invest in our students in the healthcare field.

This incredible opportunity has offered vital financial assistance to students enrolled in the clinical portions of their programs, allowing them to focus on their education and professional development. Each of the ten SUSLA students received a \$1,250 scholarship, awarded through a competitive application process that highlighted their overall GPA, and good academic standing. This year's talented recipients represent a wide range of programs, including Dental Hygiene, Health Information Technology, Medical Laboratory Technician, LPN Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, Radiologic Technology, and Sterile Processing.

The recipients of the scholarships presented Mr. Valliere with thank you cards to show their appreciation.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support from CareSouth and look forward to seeing all our scholarship recipients thrive in their respective fields!



# CareSouth Scholarship



# CareSouth Scholarship



# Dr. Aubra J. Gantt Speaks at Rotary Club of Shreveport

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, was the featured speaker at Rotary Club of Shreveport. The weekly meeting, held at the Hilton in Downtown Shreveport, is comprised of members who are business owners and leaders working together to positively impact our local and regional communities, and supporting people in need worldwide.

Chancellor Gantt brought a highly informative message on "The State of SUSLA: Reimagining Our Future". Many in attendance expressed their amazement at the many degree programs and certificates offered at SUSLA. Several members shared stories of how SUSLA has positively affected their families and the community at large.

Dr. Gantt concluded with the steady increase in enrollment and graduation rates that SUSLA has experienced, year over year, for the last couple of years. She further informed the attendees of the 100% state exam pass rates of many of SUSLA's Allied Health and other programs. Competitive salaries and meeting the employment needs of the community, were also outlined in her explanation of the university's student centric and workforce development focus.



# MISS SOUTHERN

## NIA ELISABETH BROWN

Born in the heart of Washington, D.C., at George Washington Hospital—just steps away from the White House—Her Royal Majesty, Nia Elisabeth Brown, is the proud daughter of Melissa and Carl Brown. As the child of a military family, her life has been a beautiful journey of resilience and discovery, spanning across Maryland, North Carolina, Colorado, back to Maryland, Louisiana, South Korea, and ultimately Killeen, Texas—where her story of strength and purpose truly began.

From a young age, Nia embodied the essence of determination. She discovered her passion for basketball during her freshman year of high school and quickly rose to become a four-year varsity athlete. Her relentless spirit earned her titles as Defensive Player of the Year in both her junior and senior seasons, and she proudly tied her school's rebounding record. That same passion carried into her college career, where she became a member of the Lady Jags Basketball Team at Southern University at Shreveport. After suffering an ACL injury that tested both her strength and spirit, Nia turned her pain into purpose—proving that true champions rise even when faced with adversity.

Now pursuing a degree in Criminal Psychology at Southern University at Shreveport, Nia continues to display the same grace, grit, and focus that have defined her journey. A proud member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, she aspires to attend Howard University School of Law after earning her bachelor's degree—furthering her mission to serve, lead, and advocate for justice.

To Nia, her name—meaning “purpose”—is more than a definition; it is her divine calling. She reigns as Miss Southern University at Shreveport not merely as a titleholder, but as a living testament to perseverance, leadership, and unwavering faith.

She lives by the words:  
“When you walk in your purpose, you light the path for others.”



# THE CORONATION



# De-Escalation Training Program

The Southern University at Shreveport's University Police Department recently completed an intensive 8-hour de-escalation training program held at Louisiana State University Shreveport (LSUS). This vital training was aimed at equipping law enforcement personnel with advanced techniques for peacefully resolving tense encounters and prioritizing community safety.

The comprehensive 8-hour session focused on crucial skills such as active listening, verbal communication tactics, and understanding non-verbal cues to defuse potentially volatile situations. Participants engaged in scenario-based exercises designed to provide practical experience in handling a range of challenging interactions without resorting to force.

"Our commitment to the safety and well-being of our campus community is paramount," stated Captain Jeffrey Ivey. "This de-escalation training is an invaluable tool that empowers our officers to manage complex situations with greater effectiveness, empathy, and professionalism. We believe continuous education like this strengthens public trust and fosters positive interactions." The University's Police participation in this specialized training underscores its dedication to continuous professional development and adherence to best practices in modern policing, ensuring a secure and supportive environment for everyone at Southern University.



# 52 Annual Bayou Classic Weekend SUS Board Meeting

Southern University at Shreveport made a showing at the November SU Board of Supervisors meeting. During the meeting, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, thanked Mr. Tony and Mrs. Tina Williams for all their support and dedication to SUSLA.

The weekend continued with the 52nd Annual Bayou Classic with strong SUSLA engagement across multiple events. Dental Hygiene faculty and students proudly participated in the Bayou Classic Wellness Yard at Fan Fest in Champions Square, where they provided free dental health screenings, shared wellness information, and engaged attendees in giveaways—promoting healthy habits with Jaguar pride. Meanwhile, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) played an instrumental role in Business at Bayou Classic, supporting entrepreneurship and strengthening community connections.

SUSLA also hosted a lively meet-and-greet reception for donors and friends of the university. Guests enjoyed SUSLA-branded items and warm fellowship before ending the evening in true New Orleans fashion, a spirited second-line celebration. Chancellor Gant and distinguished guests from the SUSLA team later attended the SU Foundation Gala, an elegant event highlighted by an unforgettable performance from the legendary Isley Brothers.

The SUSLA team closed out the weekend in the Superdome stands, cheering proudly as the Jaguars claimed victory over the Tigers.

A meaningful, energetic, and unforgettable Bayou Classic weekend for Jaguar Nation!



# 52 Annual Bayou Classic Weekend SUS Board Meeting



# 52 Annual Bayou Classic Weekend SUS Board Meeting

Goal 6



# 52 Annual Bayou Classic Weekend SUS Board Meeting



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# 52 Annual Bayou Classic Weekend SUS Board Meeting



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SUSLA

ALUMNI

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