

Chancellor's Report



SUSLA
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA
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PICTURED: INTERIM CHANCELLOR DR. VLADIMIR A. APPEANING PRESENTS MS. CAROLYN COATNEY, MUSEUM COORDINATOR (RETIRED) WITH THE FOUNDING LEADER AWARD AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART, SHREVEPORT (SUMAS) 20TH ANNIVERSARY

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART SHREVEPORT (SUMAS) CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CULTURE & CREATIVITY



PICTURED (L TO R): DR. VLADIMIR A. APPEANING AWARDS PRESIDENT-CHANCELLOR DR. BELTON THE FOUNDING LEADER PLAQUE AT THE EVENT (LEFT), SENATOR GREGORY TARVER AND DR. LEON R. TARVER, II UNVEILED A SPECIAL DEDICATION PLAQUE OF THEIR MOTHER (DECEASED) BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR, PIONEER IN THE MORTUARY FIELD AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, THE LATE MRS. BALISTINE WILLIAMS HOPKINS OF J.S. WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME (TOP), NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY DANCE TROUPE PERFORM FOR GUESTS (BOTTOM)

An event twenty years in the making was held for Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport's 20th Anniversary on Thursday, February 24th at its facility on the Metro Campus in downtown Shreveport. "Celebrating the Vision, Creating the Future" was the theme that set the tone for an evening of reverence, reflection, and a resounding future. The 20th Anniversary Celebration honored SUMAS' visionary founder and founding leaders of North Louisiana's cultural gem--the only museum in North Louisiana dedicated solely to African and African American art and cultural heritage occupying two stories of the four-story historic Barrett Building, now the Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport located in the West Edge Arts District of Downtown Shreveport, Louisiana.

SUMAS' history began 20 years ago on February 21, 2002, when Dr. Leon R. Tarver, II serving as the Executive Administrator (retired) of the Center of Cultural Heritage and International Programs at Southern University and A & M College was the driving force and the visionary founder of the Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport. This museum is an integral part of the Southern University System as a sister-operation to the Baton Rouge and New Orleans campuses museums, first started on the SU Baton Rouge campus by Dr. Tarver in 2001 and is part of the rich cultural arts legacy of the nation's only HBCU system. Through his travels to Africa, Dr. Tarver "who sees the museum as a critical cultural link to the community" collected a few artifacts and his enthusiasm for the art of his ancestors grew into an extensive collection.

Since its founding in 2002, the Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport has played a profound and essential role in our state as the only museum in North Louisiana celebrating the visual and cultural arts heritage of the African Diaspora and connecting the distinct arts traditions from Africa to America across North Louisiana and the state of Louisiana designated as a destination of the Louisiana African American Heritage Trail.

SUMAS' anniversary celebration heralded attendance from SUSLA and Southern University System campus leadership, SUSLA faculty, staff and student body leaders, community leaders, local and state legislators, dignitaries, and public officials that came to honor Dr. Tarver's landmark cultural arts vision. The event started with guests being greeted in the atrium by the Northside Elementary School Drumline.

The beat of the drum ushered guests into the museum for the start of the program as hosts presented them with a commemorative lapel pin. Dr. Angelique Feaster Evans, SUMAS Museum Coordinator, served as the mistress of ceremony for the evening guiding guests through the order of service in the spirit of a West African griot. The program officially kicked off with an invocation by Rev. Theron Jackson, Pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church followed by a song of welcome entitled "Funga Alafia," which means "with my words, I welcome you" performed by Northside Elementary School's West African Dance Troupe. The audience chimed in on the second verse led by Dr. Feaster Evans.

Guests were then welcomed by Dr. Vladimir Appeaning, SUSLA Interim Chancellor. Many of Shreveport's public officials and community leaders were in attendance with opening remarks by the Honorable Mayor Adrian Perkins, followed by greetings from City Councilwoman, the Honorable Tabatha Taylor (District A) and Caddo Parish School Board Member and former SU Board of Supervisor Member, the Honorable Dottie Bell. The Southern University System, represented by the Honorable Sam Gilliam and SUSLA campus student, faculty, and staff leaders, represented by SGA President JaQuan Davie, Miss SUSLA Jennifer Pickens, Staff Senate President Sandra Bigham, and Faculty Senate President Fred Moss offered greetings to our guests.

Internationally acclaimed Soprano vocalist and Miss SUSBO 1974-75, Brenda Wimberly led the audience in a rousing rendition of the Black National Anthem. Mr. Henry Price, Caddo Parish Public Schools Art Supervisor and member of the first class at SUSBO shared the importance and significance of SUMAS to the community and his personal connection to Dr. Tarver and Southern University from Shreveport to Baton Rouge. The historical perspective on the inception of SUMAS was presented virtually by Mrs. Vivian Kerr, Director of Southern University System Museums. Mrs. Kerr's first-hand knowledge and up-close-and-personal experiences about the trips to Africa with Dr. Tarver and the critical need for cultural representation through the creation of SUMA in Baton Rouge and SUMAS in Shreveport provided the audience with a snapshot of the foundation of both cultural institutions.

The moment of honor and recognition of our visionary founding leaders was the highlight of the event as these key individuals led the charge in SUMAS becoming the leading cultural arts institution it is today. Dr. Damien D. Ejigiri, Dean of the Nelson Mandela College of Government & Social Sciences introduced his longtime friend, Dr. Leon R. Tarver, II-Founder of Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport, Member-At-Large, Southern University System Board of Supervisors. Dr. Tarver gave heartfelt remarks about his first experience to Africa which led to the collective journey of bringing SUMAS to fruition. He credited Dr. Ray L. Belton for his desire to bring SUMAS to life. Rev. Theron Jackson introduced his dear friend, Dr. Ray L. Belton-Former Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, President-Chancellor Southern University System and A&M College. Dr. Belton shared what SUMAS meant to our community as well as his travels to Africa with Dr. Tarver.

Dr. Angelique Feaster Evans introduced Mrs. Vivian Lee Kerr-Director, Southern University System Museum of Art at Baton Rouge. The Honorable Sam Gilliam introduced his friend and colleague, Ms. Carolyn Coatney Founding Coordinator (Retired) Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport Museum Coordinator. Ms. Coatney shared remarks about her journey at SUSLA to becoming the founder SUSLA Museum Coordinator. She credited Dr. Tarver for his remarkable leadership and his faith in her to lead the museum operation. Dr. Appeaning presented each honoree with a plaque in honor of their service and visionary leadership in the founding of Southern University Museum of Art Shreveport.



PICTURED: SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO SUMAS ON BEHALF OF THE SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL BY COUNCILWOMAN THE HONORABLE LEVETTE FULLER (DISTRICT B) (TOP) AND THE OFFICE AND THE GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS BY MR. RICHARD HARTLEY (BOTTOM)



PICTURED: DR. APPEANING AWARDS DR. LEON R. TARVER, II THE FOUNDING LEADER PLAQUE (TOP), MISS SUSLA JENNIFER PICKENS & SGA PRESIDENT JAQUAN DAVIE ARE ENJOYING THE CELEBRATION (BOTTOM)

SUSLA WELCOMES INCOMING SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM PRESIDENT, DR. DENNIS SHIELDS



PICTURED (L TO R): INTERIM CHANCELLOR VLADIMIR A. APPEANING AND THE HONORABLE MR. SAM GILLIAM WELCOME DR. DENNIS SHIELDS TO THE SOUTHERN FAMILY (TOP), VETERANS UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS ARE ALL SMILES WITH DR. SHIELDS (BOTTOM LEFT), SUSLA STAFF COME TOGETHER TO MEET THE INCOMING PRESIDENT-CHANCELLOR (MIDDLE), DR. SHIELDS TALKS TO THE COMMUNITY AT THE EVENING RECEPTION IN THE JACKSON AUDITORIUM (RIGHT)

On March 16, 2022, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) welcomed Dr. Dennis Shields for his first visit to the SUSLA campus since being named the incoming Southern University System President and Chancellor of the Baton Rouge campus.

During his trip, Dr. Shields conducted a series of sessions designed to engage the student body, faculty, and staff at the Shreveport campus. The engagement included questions from all audiences ranging from the status of the new gymnasium to Dr. Shields' take on protecting the SUSLA enrollment pipeline and matriculation throughout the Southern University system.

To close out the engagement sessions, SUSLA Chancellor, Dr. Vladimir Appeaning spoke on innovative strategies that are in the works for SUSLA, including possibly retrofitting current spaces on campus until new buildouts are complete in order to be better accessible and accommodating to students. "...for the sake of our students, we the faculty and we the staff need to be right here on this campus to provide services to our students."

Dr. Shields' visit concluded with a reception hosted by Chancellor Appeaning and the SUSLA Family to introduce Dr. Shields and First Lady Shields to regional community and business leaders and stakeholders.



BLACK HISTORY VETERANS PROGRAM, FOREVER BRAVE: A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MILITARY



PICTURED: THE VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM, INTERIM CHANCELLOR APPEARING, DR. MELVA WILLIAMS, VICE CHANCELLOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, DR. MILTON, GUEST SPEAKER & AUTHOR, AND SUSLA SGA SMILE AS THEY CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN MILITARY DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Veterans Program – “Forever Brave,” was a Community Celebration of the African American soldiers that previously served and those that are currently serving. The program was implemented Thursday, February 24, 2022, at the Alphonse Jackson Building on the campus of Southern University at Shreveport Louisiana (SUSLA). There was a packed house in attendance, the auditorium was just about at capacity with 220 students in attendance. The program was attended by students, faculty/staff and administration alike. The audience was enthusiastic in welcoming the keynote speaker, Dr. Walter Milton, Jr. He discussed the long legacy of Black Soldiers, past and present who have risked their lives to ensure that this great nation is safe. Throughout his presentation he provided relevant mantras that the people in attendance embraced and connected with.

Dr. Milton quoted, Alexandre Dumas, “One’s work may be finished someday, but one’s education never.” He continued by stating, “Therefore, we have the propensity to distinguish Schooling from Education.” He became Superintendent of Flint Community Schools in 2005; Flint, Michigan where he designed and implemented a district wide education reform that has been recognized throughout the State of Michigan and other parts of the country. He is the former superintendent in Springfield, Illinois, where he served as superintendent for almost eight years. Dr. Milton is also a published author of *Why Black Men Must Save Black Boys in America’s Public Schools* (2014), *Truth Be Told-Narratives from The Souls of Black Women* (2018) and *Black History 365-An Inclusive Account of American History* (2020). He is currently CEO of Black History 365 (BH365 LLC) and From the Heart International Educational Services (FTH).

Dorsey Summerfield, Jr. the Associate Professor of Music was the Musician of the hour. Professor Summerfield the saxophonist filled the auditorium with jazzy ambience with his performance of “My Funny Valentine”, “The World is A Ghetto”, and “Lift Every Voice and Sing”. At the closing of the Black History Veterans Program, the audience stood as we sang “O Southern, Dear Southern, Thy praises we shall sing...” Interim Chancellor, Dr. Vladimir A. Appeaning welcomed the audience and led in the singing of the Alma Mater.

The Veteran’s Upward Bound Program. The purpose of the Veterans Upward Bound Program is designed to provide academic, educational, and Veterans Affairs benefit support services to eligible Veterans. These services are provided to assist Veterans in reaching their academic goals; Free Educational & Counseling Services; Academic Enrollment Assistance; Career Exploration Financial Aid Advising; and Enrollment Counseling. Urina F. Holt, the Director along with the dynamic team of Veterans Upward Bound are truly grateful for the successful participation from the community. Much thought, planning and preparation was given into ensuring that this wonderful event was successful. Stay tuned, bigger things are only forthcoming for SUSLA Veterans Upward Bond Program.

SUSLA STAFF SENATE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH “EMBRACING OUR ROOTS: A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE” EVENT



PICTURED (L TO R): STAFF SENATE PRESIDENT MS. SAUNDRA BIGHAM AND STAFF SENATE BOARD MEMBER DR. ANGELIQUE FEASTER EVANS SHOW OFF THEIR AFRICAN ATTIRE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH (TOP), DR. CALVIN LESTER, DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS, ROCKS HIS AFRICAN ATTIRE AT THE EVENT (BOTTOM LEFT), RNL COOKERY CORNER SERVES HEALTHY DISHES FOR OUR STAFF (MIDDLE), MRS. YUVETTE ALLEN HAS HER ALL OF US RESEARCH GIVEAWAYS TO HAND OUT FOR EACH ATTENDEE (RIGHT)

The SUSLA Staff Senate played host to “Embracing Our Roots: A Cultural Experience” in conjunction with celebrating Black History Month on February 17th.

The program included special guest, Caddo-Parish poet-laureate, Poetic X, who lectured on the spoken word and performed an original poem. Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams discussed the role that African spices have played the evolution of food in America and facilitated the blessing and affirmation of the food prior to lunch being served.

Authentic African dishes was prepared by Niematulai Longstratt from her food truck café, RNL Cookery Corner, and employees were asked to wear African attire to embrace the beauty of our culture.

Special thanks go out to the Office of the Chancellor, Student Activities, and the All of Us Research Program for their assistance in Black History Month giveaways and preparations to making this event possible.



SUSLA SGA CELEBRATES WOMEN FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH THE THEME — “DON'T BE A LADY, BE A LEGEND”

The 54th Miss Southern University at Shreveport Jennifer Pickens, Student Government Association and the Lyceum Committee celebrated Women's History Month by honoring three powerful women who are making history. The honorees were Dottie Bell (Local Honoree), Tammy Phelps (State Honoree) and Omari J. Ho-Sang (National Honoree). The guest speaker for the Women's History Month Celebration was Dr. Lisa L. Tropez-Arceneaux, Psy.D., MSCP.

The theme for the event was “Celebrating Her-Story,” Dr. Tropez-Arceneaux touched on numerous topics relating to her personal struggles along with challenges her mother and son had to face. She spoke on issues ranging from women's rights to powerful women that paved the way for her and others to come. Dr. Tropez-Arceneaux challenged the women in the audience to, “Just don't be a lady, be a legend.”



ALL OF US RESEARCH HOSTS “JAGFIT: DANCING RELIEVES STRESS” PROGRAM

On Friday, March 4, 2022, at 11:00 AM the All of Us Research Team: Yvette Allen and Johnetta Rhone gave a presentation on how dancing relieves stress to senior citizens line dancing class at Hattie Perry Recreational Center at 4300 Ledbetter Street, Shreveport, LA 71108. The line dance class is taught by Mr. Olden Wright who is also a Math Instructor at Southern University at Shreveport and Line Dance Instructor: Connie Linear. Patricia Flanagan, an English instructor at SUSLA is a member of the line dancing class (see picture).

Yvette Allen gave a presentation on the purpose of the All of Us Research Program and How Dancing Relieves Stress. and Johnetta Rhone taught the class a simple line dance to improve physical and mental health. The key points were:

- When the body feels good, the mind feels good.
- Dancing improves the heart and lungs
- Dancing increases muscular strength
- Dancing improves muscle tone and strength
- Dancing helps with weight management
- Dancing helps produce strong bones to reduce the risk of osteoporosis
- Dancing improves coordination, agility, and flexibility
- Dancing improves mental functioning
- Dancing improves general and psychological well being
- Dancing improves self-confidence and self-esteem
- Dancing improves social skills

Attendees were given All of Us Research literature, water bottles, yoga mats, portion plates, face masks, hand sanitizer, and salad shakers to encourage living a healthy lifestyle.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JAGUAR OF THE MONTH: DR. TUESDAY MAHONEY

Dr. Tuesday Mahoney is the Southern University at Shreveport's Assistant Vice Chancellor for College Access. She is an accomplished educator, author, and motivational speaker. Dr. Mahoney is a dedicated student center administrator committed to education and community service. She enjoys enlightening her community through her service. Dr. Mahoney began her academic career at SUSLA before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Clark Atlanta University, a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Doctorate of Education from Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

Dr. Mahoney belongs to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the National Association of University Women, the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers, and the National Association of Colleges and Employers. She is a member of the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Northwest Louisiana's Board of Directors. Dr. Tuesday Mahoney takes pride in offering superior service in the Jaguar tradition.



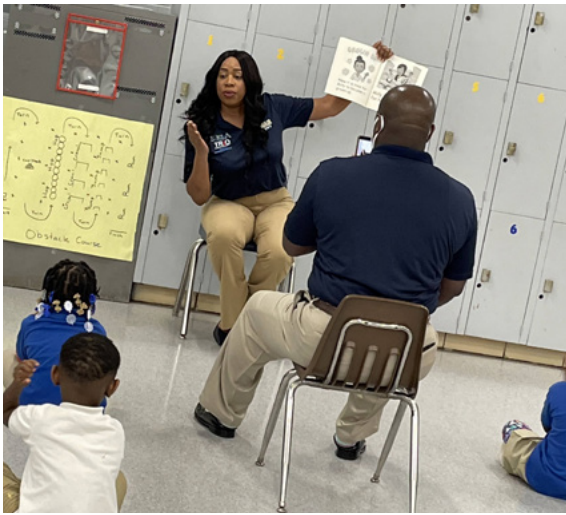


SUSLA PARTICIPATES IN NFL STAR TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE'S FOOD GIVEAWAY

It was all hands on deck Saturday morning at Shreveport's Southern University parking lot where a second mobile food giveaway took place courtesy of Shreveport native and NFL star Tre'Davious White, who grew up in the area.

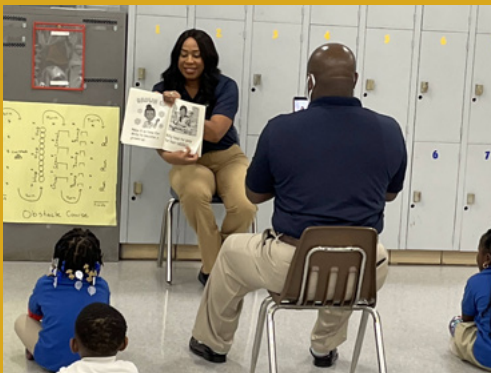
White, a 2013 Green Oaks High School graduate, 2016 LSU All-American cornerback, and Buffalo Bills 2017 first-round draft pick, continues to give back to the city, and neighborhood, that he says gave him so much.

And Saturday, hundreds of people were able to take home a variety of groceries that will help their lives go a little easier. With food prices going up and inflation in Louisiana rising at its highest rate in 40 years, and now gas topping \$4 per gallon, the giveaway couldn't have come at a better time.



SUSLA COLLEGE ACCESS PARTICIPATES IN READ ACROSS AMERICA 2022

The SUSLA Department of College Access Team supported "Read Across America" at our local elementary school Northside Elementary. The Principal, Dr. Frazier, allowed our staff to read books to the students. Read Across America is a reading program designed to engage kids in reading books, which plays a role in sculpting who they are as a person. Dr. Tuesday Mahoney and Mr. Jacoby Tubbs read a few books written by Dr. Mahoney, herself — *The Milly Book Series*.



J.S. CLARK ELEMENTARY “PRESIDENT’S LIST” STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN HEALTHY COOKING DEMO AT MS KICK



PICTURED: VEGANS ON THE RUN OWNER & COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSOR, DR. JOSLIN PICKENS AND PRINCIPAL KENYA C. ROBERTS WITH HER J.S. CLARK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

J.S. Clark Elementary students who made the President’s List were rewarded by participating in a hands-on cooking class at MS KICK on January 14th. For a student to be eligible for the President’s list, they must have earned at least a 3.7 GPA with no discipline referrals for the school year. The participating students were from 1st to 5th grades.

The Principal’s list is a program conducted by the school district but, Principal Kenya Roberts took it a step further by allowing the students to participate in a real-life experience. “I chose healthy eating because it is so important to start early with teaching children healthy eating habits and that healthy food can taste good,” Roberts replied when asked what compelled her to do a healthy cooking class as a reward. The students can take what is learned and teach their families to eat healthy as well.

The featured Chef for the “President’s List” healthy cooking demo was Chef Joslin Pickens of Vegans on the Run, an MS KICK tenant. The students worked side by side with Chef Joslin and prepared Vegan tacos two ways, Vegans Meat Tacos, and Vegans Strawberry Tacos. “Children are the heart of trust of our community. It is so important to teach them how to eat to live and Vegan eating can be enjoyable and not boring!”, responded Chef Joslin when asked what she expect the students to get out of her Healthy Cooking Demo.

“Educational workshops, training, and demonstrations around food and healthy eating are priorities for the MS KICK program. This class represents the 3rd group that Principal Roberts has hosted at our facility and we are grateful that J.S. Clark elementary, located in the MSKICKs target community shares our goal of creating a healthier community, one child, one family, and one community at a time,” said Janice Sneed, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development. Along the same lines and addressing the same goal of nutritional education, MS KICK offered cooking classes for youth with the Summer Camp, “Kids Kooking in the Kitchen.” Interim Executive Director, Monique Armand stated, “With the success and enthusiasm that we received from the participating campers, we knew this was a great aspect of our Culinary program that we wanted to expand as we strive to meet our nutritional educational goals around health and nutrition.” Kids Kooking in the Kitchen summer camp consisted of 4 sessions that featured local Chefs that provided hands-on cooking demonstrations with healthy ingredients for tasty meals. Plans are underway for “Kids Kooking in the Kitchen 2.0-Summer 2022.”

We look forward to our next Principal’s List group of students from J.S. Clark Elementary. We utilize the facility culinary team members/tenants and partners to provide these training sessions to our community members and we thank Vegans on the Run for their participation with our most recent group of young people.

CALUMET LUBRICANTS AND REFINERY COMPLETES SECOND COHORT OF PROCESS OPERATOR TRAINING



On Friday, February 4, 2022, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) and Calumet Lubricants and Refinery celebrated the end of the second Process Operators Training program. This training program consists of 2.5 weeks Basic Process Operations training and 1.5 weeks Operations Safety training. The operator and safety training program started on Monday, January 10, 2022 and ended on Friday, February 4, 2022.

SUSLA and Calumet Lubricants partnership initially began on August 24, 2021, concluding on September 19, 2021, when the Workforce Development Unit within the Division of Community and Workforce Development launched the first training services to nine newly hired Calumet Lubricants Process Operators. Dr. John Galiotos stated, "According to Calumet Lubricants Leadership (Plant Manager, Safety Manager, and Operations Manager) and first-level supervisors, the program was very successful. The program trainees are performing excellently at their various plant units-hydrotreating, isomerization, alkylation, reformers, distillation, and crackers units." Due to the success of the first cohort, Calumet asked Southern University to offer a 2nd training. There were eight graduate Process Operators in the second training. Each one of these Process Operators received a Southern University at Shreveport Continuing Education (9.6 CEUs) Certificate of Completion in Process Operations and a Continuing Education Certificate of Completion (5.6 CEUs) in Operations Safety.

At the second graduation, Calumet Lubricants was represented by Operations Manager Mr. Jim Davis, Safety Manager Mr. Chet Yeo, and Safety Officer Mr. Houston Pardee. Representing Southern University at Shreveport were Associate Vice Chancellor for Academics and Workforce Development, Ms. Janice Sneed, Program Instructor Mr. Sajjad Khan, and the Dean of Workforce Development and Associate Professor of Chemistry Dr. John K. Galiotos. Currently, Southern University at Shreveport is in discussions to offer a 3rd training program, which will be a new training in Process Instrumentation (1 week), and wastewater treatment (3 days) training. Training participants also expressed interest in pursuing career pathways in Process Technology and other related fields that would lead to additional industry-based certifications (IBCs), certificates and/or associate degrees.

Ms. Janice Sneed, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development, states, "Southern University at Shreveport has a long history of providing training solutions for Calumet Lubricants. The current training agreements incorporates a partnership with the National Institute for Uniform Licensed Power Engineers (NIULPE). As a result, all Calumet Lubricants graduates at the end of each training (1st and 2nd cohorts) took the NIULPE Certification Examination with 100% success. This is a first for Southern University, the Gulf Coast (5 states) Refinery and Chemical Plants industry, and certainly the State of Louisiana. Our Dean of Workforce, Dr. Galiotos initiated the relationship with NIULPE and has led this training partnership from inception in 2021."

Calumet Specialty Products Partners, L.P. is a public U.S.-based company, incorporated in 1916, which specializes in the manufacturing of naphthenic and paraffinic oils as well as aliphatic solvents and paraffin waxes (en.wikipedia.org).

UNIVERSITY POLICE & THE ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM HOST COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING: PROMOTING POSITIVE INTERACTIONS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF SELF-DEFENSE TRAINING



PICTURED: MR. BOBBY EDWARDS, 2ND DEGREE BLACKBELT & GUEST SPEAKER, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSOR MR. FRED JACKSON DEMONSTRATE SELF-DEFENSE MOVES

On Friday, March 18, 2022, at 10:00 AM. on the main campus of Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), the University Police and the All of Us Research Program hosted the: Community-Oriented Policing: Promote Positive Interactions Across the Spectrum event in the Jesse Stone Lecture Hall. Presenters were Yvette Allen, All of Us Coordinator, Johnetta Rhone, All of Us Coordinator, Lt. Jeffery Ivey, University Police, and Captain Marshall Nelson, University Police. The special guest speaker was Mr. Bobby Edwards, 2nd Degree Blackbelt of the National Black Belt Association.

Yvette Allen opened the event with a welcome greeting. She also gave a brief introduction on the overall purpose of the All Of Us Research Program. Its focal point is to educate the African Americans communities and other people of color communities on the importance of living healthy lifestyles through precision medicine and health and safety initiatives.

Lt. Jeff Ivey announced that SUSLA is 11th in the nation and #1 in the state of Louisiana for being the safest college and university campus. Ivey also gave insightful awareness on the increase in workplace violence in the United States. He applauded SUSLA's employees indicating that due to their great community-oriented interactions on all the university's campuses. they play an important role in preventive measures in the workplace, keeping the institution safe.

Captain Marshall Nelson discussed continuous interactive strategies to prevent any type of hostile or physical violence on campus. He also gave pointers on intervention to not only keep the students, administrators, faculty, staff, and visitors but the attackers safe as well. He advised that the ultimate goal is to make every effort to prevent anyone from being violently harmed.

Mr. Bobby Edwards demonstrated martial arts self-defense techniques to attendees to help fight off violent attackers. Special thanks to participants: Frederick Jackson, SUSLA's Criminal Justice Professor, Tremendous "Amanda" Baker, SUSLA's Entry Clerk, and LaKeia Skinner and Sha'Ronica Brown, SUSLA's Graphic Services' Work-Study Students for actively engaging in the training exercises.

Johnetta Rhone, closed with remarks, reiterating the importance of the All Of Us Research Program and thanking Stephanie Graham, Office of Grants & Special Programs Director. and Sophia Lee, Purchasing Director, for granting SUSLA the opportunity to host health and safety events.

COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORKS CREATING A WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER



In meeting the demands for regional workforce and economic development growth, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) Division of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development is proposing the establishment of a world-class training facility with state-of-the-art equipment, robust curricula, fast track, and micro-credentialing stackable certificates, skills validation services, effective industry participation, and strong community engagement. The proposed name of this undertaking is the Southern University at Shreveport Workforce Education and Training Center (SUSLA WETC) and the initial areas of training concentration are:

- Energy
- Construction Trades
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Innovation and Applied Research
- Workplace Skills

The campus stakeholders have conducted several meetings as we work collaboratively with business, industry, and community leaders to establish this much-needed resource to meet the current and projected training needs of our community and region. The picture reflects the meeting held on Wednesday, February 9th with the SUSLA-WETC Leadership team and members of the local community, area unions, and Port of Caddo/Bossier to present and discussed this unique and very important initiative. Dr. John K. Galiotos, Dean of Workforce Development and Associate Professor of Chemistry, provided a detailed presentation of the SUSLA-WETC proposed project. The development and establishment of the SUSLA-WETC will greatly impact the community's sustainable improvement efforts, the economic and innovative progress of the region, and it will constitute the first phase of a training and retraining hub for the tri-state (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas) territory. For more information regarding the SUSLA-WETC, please reach out to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Community and Workforce Development, Janice B. Sneed at jsneed@susla.edu.



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Vladimir A. Appeaning, Ph.D.
INTERIM CHANCELLOR

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