

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 20, 2021 Contact: Michael Thomas Director of Marketing and University Relations (318) 670-9472 <u>mthomas@susla.edu</u>

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT GRADUATES CLASS OF 2021

Southern University at Shreveport held its Spring 2021 commencement exercises at 6 p.m. May 22 in Independence Stadium on the State Fairgrounds, 3701 Hudson Ave., Shreveport, La.

SUSLA's 2021 class was comprised of over 500 students from a variety of fields of study. This year's class includes 13 Dual-Enrollment students. 4 students from Booker T. Washington High School in Shreveport and 9 students from Lincoln Preparatory School in Ruston. The graduating class from 2020 was also recognized with the 2021 class.

Dual Enrollment is a unique opportunity for high school students to take college classes while earning their high school diplomas. The program gives students the opportunity to get a head start on college, and in some cases, earn an associate degree from SUSLA.

Speaker for this year's event was Aphriekah DuHaney-West, Chief Executive Officer of Ochsner LSU Health.

DuHaney-West has built a strong reputation as a passionate and dynamic Servant Leader. She joined Ochsner LSU Health in March 2020 as Chief Operating Officer, rising to Chief Executive Officer in December 2020.

Dr. Rodney Ellis. Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport said, "It is with honor and distinction that I acknowledge and congratulate the Spring 2020-2021 Graduating Class. This year's commencement is a manifestation of their personal triumphs and ambition. This age-old ritual culminates their personal perseverance and academic achievements at Southern University Shreveport. It also is an indicator of the support provided by close family and friends."

About Southern University at Shreveport: From training our community's workforce to preparing students for four-year schools to leading the way in global educational success and completion, Southern University at Shreveport is committed to ensuring that we leave an indelible footprint in our community and beyond. As the only HBCU comprehensive community college in Louisiana, SUSLA serves an ever-growing population of full-time and part-time students. At SUSLA, we offer a high-quality education and opportunities for our students--which in turn contributes to the vibrancy of our local, state, national and global economic community. Learn more here.