



Southern University at Shreveport
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUSLA receives \$475,000 Grant for New Energy and Technology Program

The US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Economic Impact and Diversity announced the Minority Education, Workforce and Training (MEWT) grant on April 15, 2020. The MEWT Program funding includes \$4 million in financial assistance awards for public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) was awarded \$475,000 for one year of performance with an option for additional years. “This grant represents one step in a broader effort by SUSLA to keep more students in college and ultimately help students develop the skills they need to work in the energy and tech industry that are so vital to the Louisiana Economy,” stated Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor. SUSLA received the grant to develop an associate degree program in process technology and certificate programs in power lineman, energy, and technology.

Future projects are foreseeable, contingent upon available funding and programmatic relevance of proposed projects. The topic of interest includes stem education, capacity building, technical assistance, training, and workforce/pipeline analysis. Small businesses, nonprofits having a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS, private institutions for higher education, and for-profit organizations are eligible applicants as well.

Janice Sneed, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development, states, “We have researched, partnered with business, industry, educational institutions and various energy stakeholders with the sole purpose of developing a diversified energy workforce across the state of Louisiana. Minorities make up less than 9% of the energy workforce nationally and even less in our state and region. The Minority Education, Workforce, and Training Program (MEWT) grant award will shape a workforce pipeline to business and industry through certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs.”

SUSLA’s project, “Petroleum, Oil, Wind, Electricity, Renewable: Talent in Energy Careers (Powertec), will begin July 1, 2020.

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Southern University at Shreveport, an institution within the Southern University System, seeks to provide a quality education for its students, while being committed to the total community. This institution prepares students for careers in technical and occupational fields; awards certificates and associate degrees as well as offerings and programs that are transferable to other colleges and universities. Dedicated to

excellence in instruction and community service, this open enrollment institution promotes cultural diversity, provides developmental and continuing education, and seeks partnerships with business and industry.

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