



## OFFICE OF MARKETING AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Southern University at Shreveport's School of Nursing expanding to new location**

Renovations of the historic Allen Building, located adjacent to the SUSLA Metro Center, is set to begin on September 25<sup>th</sup> and should be completed in September 2017. In 2010, SUSLA purchased the historic Allen Building for the purpose of expanding its Nursing program in an effort to serve more students due to increased demand. The Allen Building will be a 25,797 square foot facility featuring revitalized infrastructure equipped with state of the art instrumentation for enhanced learning in the field of nursing. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for November 1, 2016 at 10a.m. at the SUSLA Metro Center (610 Texas Ave.).

Ms. Tiffany W. Varner, SUSLA's Director of Nursing, stated, "It has long been our goal to expand the enrollment in our nursing programs, but our current physical space made that goal very challenging". The renovations of the Allen building will provide a 21bed hospital lab, in contrast to the current 5bed laboratory in addition to smart classrooms, a lecture hall and office space.

SUSLA Chancellor, Dr. Rodney Ellis said, "This new development will certainly improve SUSLA and our ability to allow more students into our School of Nursing. The Healthcare industry offers opportunities in high demand high wage jobs, locally, regionally and nationwide. Moving into a

larger, modern space, will enable our institution to accept more students and ultimately hire more faculty as we broaden our footprint in within the city of Shreveport.”

SUSLA currently has 136 students enrolled LPN to RN track program. On average, SUSLA graduates 40% annually with most entering the workforce within 9 months of completing the program and successfully completing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). NCLEX-RN test pass rate: 2013-86.84%, 2014-74%, 2015-92.31% and 2016-71.74%. SUSLA will also use the Allen building to facilitate two short-term educational programs such as LPN and CNA.

### A History of SUSLA's School of Nursing

The School of Nursing began as a call to offer nursing education to individuals who may not otherwise have an opportunity. SUSLA's School of Nursing became unique in Louisiana in that it houses a “nursing trifecta (Certified Nursing Assistant, Practical Nurse, & Registered Nurse)” all under one roof! The program has received reaffirmation of its national accreditation through 2020.

The RN program began in 2005 with two tracks toward an Associate of Science in nursing degree. The *generic track* started with 50 students in the spring 2005. The *LPN-RN track* started with 19 students in the fall 2005. A total of 46 students graduated in fall 2006 with a first time NCLEX pass rate of 91.46%! Since then, the program has experienced tremendous success. Currently, the LPN-RN track program accepts 90-120 students annually. Graduates are highly recruited across the city, the state, and the nation. The RN program is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). It is also fully approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN).

The Certified Nursing Assistant program began in the summer of 2011. Training is offered every 7 ½ weeks. The CNA program offers two sessions during the Fall, two during the Spring and one during the summer semesters. 100% of all students that complete this program pass the certification exam. The program is approved by the Louisiana Department of Health.

The Practical Nursing program is the fastest pathway to a career in nursing. Training takes only 14 months. The first class began in spring 2013. Nine students completed the program and had a first time NCLEX-PN pass rate of 100%. The program is fully approved by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (LSBPNE).

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Interior View



**New School of Nursing at the Metro Center**  
Southern University Shreveport  
Shreveport, Louisiana



Before



After



**New School of Nursing at the Metro Center**  
Southern University Shreveport  
Shreveport, Louisiana



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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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