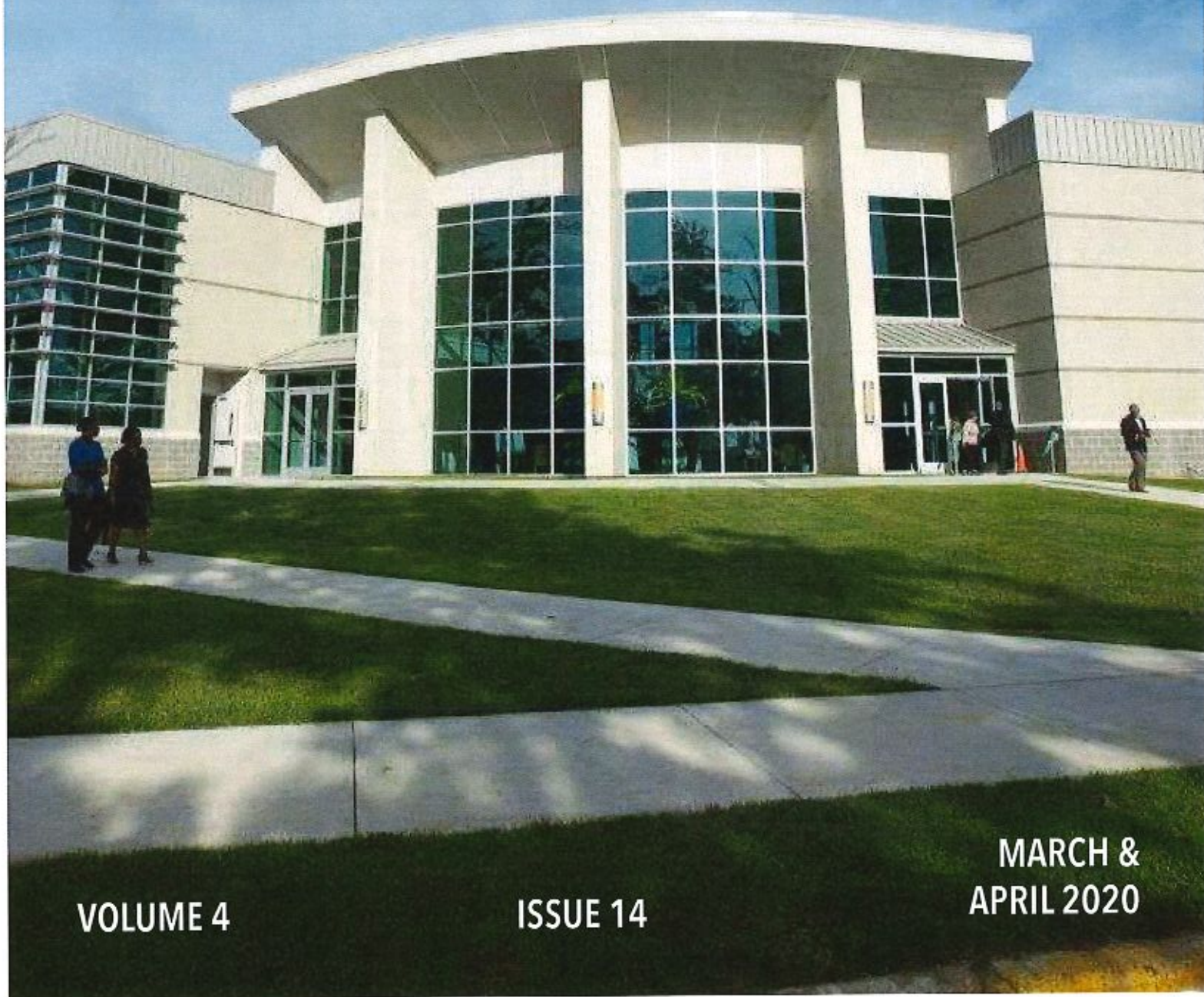




*Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service • Diversity*

# Chancellor's Report



VOLUME 4

ISSUE 14

MARCH &  
APRIL 2020



## \$200,000 AWARDED TO SUSLA FROM EPA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAM



On February 7, 2020, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the City of Shreveport announced the award of \$200,000 for an environmental job training program in northwest Louisiana. "Southern University at Shreveport is pleased to receive an Environmental Workforce and Job Training Grant to address cleanups and provide specialized training," said Chancellor Rodney Ellis, Ed.D. We have consistently demonstrated a proven track record with this type of training with over 85 percent placement rate of our trainees."

SUSLA will train 60 individuals over 3-years on how to address environmental hazards in the city. The 60 persons recruited over the first two years will be placed in three separate training sessions (20each). The goal will be to complete the first session during year one and conduct and complete sessions two and three during the second year. The job placement/furthering education goal is set at 85%. The third year of the grant will be reserved for follow up, job retention, coaching for those trainees with partners, and trainee evaluations. Participants will attend the required courses and pre-employment skills training as part of the complete curriculum. Additionally, students will complete an environmental literacy course. The project will use the ACT Work Keys, Curriculum, which helps individuals build the essential career-relevant skills needed for learning, personal development, and job performance. For more information about the job training program, please contact Shanice Robinson at 318.670.7852.



Above: Chancellor Ellis pictured with EPA Regional Administrator, Ken McQueen, receiving the award for SUSLA's Job Training Program.

“We are proud to support this project, it will directly impact veterans and underserved communities by preparing them for environmental careers. This training program will help revitalize local communities affected by environmental hazardous.”

- EPA Regional Administrator, Ken McQueen



## SUSLA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS WITH THE SHREVEPORT SUN



The Shreveport Sun is celebrating 100 years and is the oldest weekly newspaper for African Americans in Louisiana. To mark this occasion, The Shreveport Sun partnered with Shreve Memorial Library for a Black History Month Lecture Series. The second installment of the series focused on the future of our region's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

On February 3, 2020 Southern University at Shreveport's Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis joined Grambling State University's President, Rick Gallot, and Wiley College's President, Dr. Herman Felton, for a panel discussion. SUSLA Assistant History Professor Marquel Sennet moderated the event that gave community members the opportunity to ask the HBCU leaders questions and engage in a dialogue about the state of our area's HBCUs.



Top Left: L to R: Event Organizer, Robert Jackson, Dr. Rodney Ellis, SUSLA Chancellor, Marquel Sennet, SUSLA History Program Coordinator, Dr. Herman Felton, Wiley College President, Rick Gallot, Grambling State University President, Dottie Bell of the Caddo Parish School Board, and Willie Bradford of the Shreveport City Council.

Bottom Left: L to R: Dr. Ellis, Dr. Felton, and Mr. Gallot are answering questions from the audience at the Black History Month Panel Discussion.



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CELEBRATES 8-YEARS TOBACCO FREE!

The Southern University System-Shreveport Campus held its Tobacco-Free Celebration on Thursday, February 13, 2020, in the Alphonse Jackson Jr. Hall. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to attend the festivities.

Southern University Ag Center, CoC Network- Regional Coordinator, Johnetta Rhone presented attendees with visuals on the harmful effects of tobacco; explained the significance of the SU System Tobacco-Free policy, that went into effect January 2012, and described the influence of a smoke-free campus on the quality of student life.

The celebration offered faculty members and students the opportunity to mix and socialize in a relaxed setting. SUSLA Math Professor, Olden Wright, led line dancing. Over 100 individuals participated in the event, and the energy and excitement lasted throughout the day. The experience was educational and engaging for all attendees.





## MSKICK SITE VISIT WITH HUD SHREVEPORT ENVISION CENTER SPECIAL INITIATIVES



On January 14, 2020, the MSKICK team had a visit and site tour with HUD Shreveport EnVision Center Special Initiatives. As part of the site visit, the Executive Director, Turaeza Hose and the Culinary Training Director, Monique Armand gave the HUD Team a grand tour of the MSKICK facility and explained how the kitchen will serve as an incubator, community café and health and wellness providing job training in culinary related fields. They also enlightened the team that the community café will also serve as an anchor bringing community and families together around healthy meals, to engage in conversations relevant to community and families.

The MSKICK café will be managed by residents of the Shreveport Housing Authority incorporating career, business skill development, education and HUD Section 3 opportunities. The MS KICK facility will also provide Culinary Medicine/General Wellness adapted from the Tulane School of Medicine Teaching Kitchen at the Goldring Center for Culinary Medicine. MSKICK tenant, George Cox, with Sho'Nuff Soul Food provided feedback about his involvement with the kitchen incubator and how it has benefited him as a participant and how it will continue to help his small business grow in the future.

### PARTICIPATING ATTENDEES:

#### **BONNIE MOORE**

*Director, City of Shreveport Office of Community Planning and Development*

#### **BOBBY COLLINS**

*CEO, Housing Authority of Shreveport*

#### **TRACY GRAHAM**

*Choice Neighborhood Implementation Manager, City of Shreveport*

#### **ZACK ELLIOTT**

*Consultant CVR Associates*

#### **TURAEZA HOSE**

*Executive Director of MSKICK*

#### **MONIQUE ARMAND**

*Culinary Training Director of MSKICK*

#### **TIMOTHY SMYTH**

*Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary, HUD HQ Office of Field Policy Management*

#### **LESLIE BRADLEY**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region VI*

#### **CRYSTAL JONES-TAYLOR**

*Senior Management Analyst, Shreveport EnVision Center POC*

#### **CARLOS BORREGO**

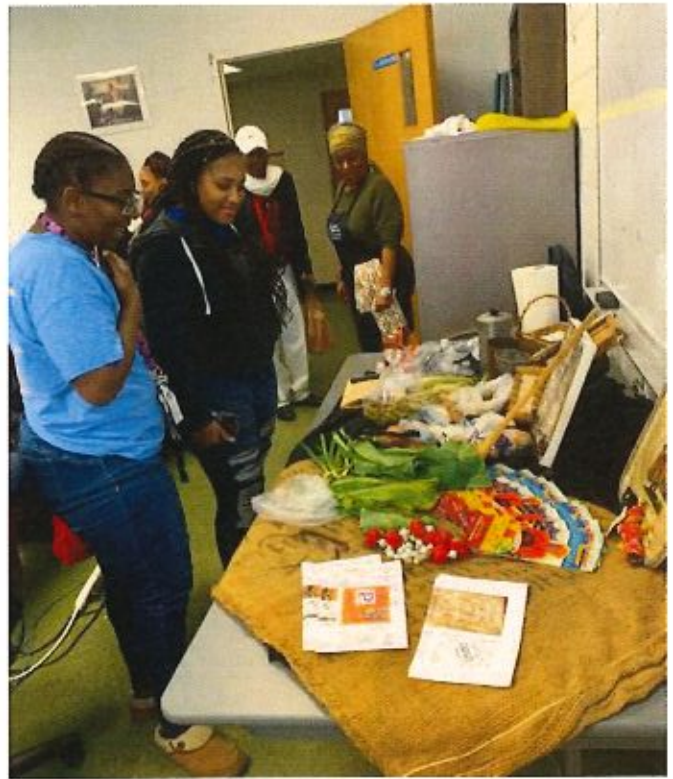
*FTW Regional Office Management Analysts*

#### **GAIL PRATER**

*FTW Regional Office Management Analysts*



## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY ON CREOLE CREATIONS FROM CHEF PANDERIA SOUMAS



On Thursday, February 13, 2020, Southern University at Shreveport graduate, Chef Panderina Soumas, shared her knowledge of the rich cultural legacy of foods developed by people of African ancestry with SUSLA's African American History students. Soumas is a critically acclaimed Louisiana Creole Culinary Artisan, cookbook author, and creator of Soumas Heritage Creole Creations Louisiana Creole pre-packaged food mixes. She is committed to bringing traditional and historical flavors of Louisiana in all-natural herbs and spices.



### 2020 HBCU COMMUNICATIONS SUMMIT

"Building your Buzz" was the topic of discussion at this year's HBCU Communications Summit on February 4, 2020, at Dillard University. Future partnership opportunities between HBCU's and Essence were revealed by Joy Profet, Chief Operating Officer, from Essence Communications, Inc (ECI). Felicia Martin-Hill, Director of Promotions and Marketing, and Rachael Davis, Senior Editor, also from ECI, discussed the importance of telling your story and staying relevant today. Attendees also received information about how to submit their press releases and stories to the media.



Cyntoia Brown-Long brought the summit to a close with an inspiring story of courage and perseverance. She served 15 years of a life sentence for killing a man when she was 16 years old. Brown was granted clemency on August 7, 2019.



## SUSLA STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

In the Spring of 2013, Jaslyn Ne'Cole Harris graduated from Mansfield High School, ready to start the next chapter of her life as a college student at Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR). After attending SUBR for three years, Jaslyn's life took an unexpected turn with an unplanned pregnancy. This unforeseen event turned out to be her motivation in moving forward, and her driving force for success.

After accepting the reality that she would soon be a parent, Jaslyn returned to Shreveport, LA, in the Spring of 2016 with the support of her family. Once arriving home, confusion, and uncertainty of what to do next began to enter her mind. A conversation with her mother, a Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) graduate, convinced her to enroll in the university.

Jaslyn began taking classes in the fall of 2016 at SUSLA. During her time as a student, she completed an internship with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's department while nine months pregnant, and on March 25, 2017, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. In May of 2018, Jaslyn Harris graduated with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. On November 20th of that same year, she was sworn into the United States Army National Guard. After completing Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, she became a full-time recruiter. Everything became full circle, when she was assigned to be a recruiter for several local high schools, and Southern University at Shreveport.

Jaslyn stated, "My overall experience at Southern University at Shreveport was great! I always encourage people to go to Southern! Although people are ready to leave home, I tell them to stay and take classes, then leave and go to another school." Jaslyn credits much of her success to Fredrick Jackson, a criminal justice instructor who gave her great advice while attending SUSLA. "I could always go to his office; he made sure I had everything I needed during school and for graduation," said Jaslyn. She also gives credit to other professors and staff at Southern University Shreveport for helping her along the way. Today the motivating force behind Jaslyn's search for continued success comes from her beautiful daughter.



Photos of SUSLA Alumni, Jaslyn Harris.



## FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR YOU TOUR STOPS BY SUSLA

The Financial Literacy for You Tour made their stop by SUSLA on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Students received information about financial aid for college, money management, on-campus support services for students and more. Attendees engaged in fun games, and campus tours as well. Admissions and recruiters were on hand to offer answer questions regarding the institutions.



## SUSLA WELCOMES JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT STUDENTS



Southern University at Shreveport collaborated with Junior Achievement of North Louisiana, Inc. to host two 8th grade College and Career Quest events at the University on February 4th and 6th. The College and Career Quest events exposed over 250 8th grade students from Caddo Middle Career and Technology School and Keithville Middle School to Southern University at Shreveport's Career and Technical Education Programs.

Students experienced an exciting and warm welcome to campus by campus police and members of the SUSLA band. Afterward, the group was given an overview of services such as career exploration, resume' assistance, and job search skills provided to students from the Office of Career Services and the local American Job Center.

Students then moved into an interactive activity provided by the University's Social Media Recruitment Strategist, Alexis-Ann Singletary. They were given items and tasked with working within their group to develop an Instagram marketing strategy, including a photo, caption, and unique hashtag to support their post. Each group presented their ideas and were able to have a discussion regarding the different marketing strategies that could be used to make their posts.



An Academic Fair was also held, allowing programs such as; Aerospace, Continuing Education, Rad Tech, Dental Hygiene, Business, Engineering, Criminal Justice, Campus Police, Dual Enrollment and MS Kick to set up table displays and speak with the students about course offerings, career paths and future employment opportunities in their areas of expertise. The students thoroughly enjoyed being given the opportunity to network with the faculty and staff. Thank you to Academic Affairs and Workforce Development and Support Services for making this a successful event.

“ It was an enriching experience being surrounded by so many creative individuals who were so in tune with the social climate of today. Not only did the students learn about marketing, social media strategy, and brand creation, but they also made interpersonal connections with their faculty as well as SUSLA's faculty and staff. ”

- Social Media Recruiter, Alexis-Ann Singletary



## STUDENT JAGUAR OF THE MONTH

Mr. Thaddeus Morris, Jr is a second semester Freshman at Southern University at Shreveport. He is a Nursing major, which is befitting of him because of his caring and attentive nature. After graduating from Southern, Thaddeus has plans on becoming a Registered Nurse and then returning to a 4-year college to earn his bachelor's degree in Anesthesiology. In his free time, he likes to paint, draw, read, Pray, and play. Mr. Morris' current interests lie in praising God and healing the world. His favorite Bible scripture comes from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me".

Congratulations, Thaddeus Morris, Jr. – Student Jag of the Month!



Student Thaddeus Morris pictured for his recognition as Student Jaguar of the Month.

## JAGUAR OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Joyce Cottonham is an Associate Professor of English, has given her time and service to SUSLA for 17 years. She enjoys teaching online and web-enhanced courses, as well as working with Student Support Services."

"She believes that every student can learn to write if they love to read. Students and colleagues say, she is a 'go-to person' and a motivator always willing to help others succeed. She is highly respected and creates a classroom environment of professionalism."

Congratulations Mrs. Joyce Cottonham — Jaguar of the Month!



Staff member, Mrs. Joyce Cottonham, pictured for his recognition as Jaguar of the Month.

**SUSLA**  
 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA  
*Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service • Diversity*  
 #ComeBeSouthern



## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, INC.



Image of Downtown Shreveport-Bossier where the SCASSI Conference took place.

Scholars converged upon Sam's Town Hotel in Shreveport, Louisiana for the 41st Annual Southern Conference on African American Studies, February 6-8, 2020 to engage in thought-provoking discussions, give students the opportunity to present research and compete in quiz bowls and hear presentations from some of the nations' leading experts in African and African American Studies. The theme for the conference was "Quantum Leaps: Black Nationalism, Internationalism, Progressivism and Power through Freedom 1619-2019." Southern University at Shreveport served as the host higher education institution for the conference with Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams as Conference Chair, Dr. Lonnie McCray, Co-Chair for Panels and Presentations and Ms. Sandra Bigham, Co-Chair for Events and a host of faculty and staff serving in various capacities assisting with the execution of the conference.

There were several panels and presentations from faculty and staff of seventeen different colleges and universities. Some of the colleges and universities represented included Southern University at Shreveport, Southern University at Baton Rouge, Houston Community College, Eastern Connecticut State University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Clemson University, Alabama State University, Tennessee Technological University, Kent State University, Purdue University-Northwest, North Carolina A&T University, Fayetteville State University, Xavier University of Louisiana, Bluefield State College, and St. Louis Community College.

Conference participants were also treated to several keynote presentations throughout the conference. Keynote speakers included Dr. Bertis English, President of SCAASI, Mrs. Erica Bryant, Caddo Parish Administrator, Dr. Markey Pierre', President of Southern Strategy Group of North Louisiana, and Dr. George Garrison, Kent State University.

Dr. Ronald Dorris of Xavier University of Louisiana summarized the conference well by saying, "thank you for having worked so hard to stage a first-class conference. The ancestors are proud! The professional and spiritual exchange was great, along with the conference sessions, food, hotel accommodations, student participation, awards, and the fabulous Mardi Gras Ball and band." The conference is held annually in February and will be in North Carolina in 2021.



# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, INC. (CONT.)





# SUSLA

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA

*Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service • Diversity*



## Chancellor's Report

VOLUME 4

ISSUE 15

APRIL 2020



## SUSLA ADJUSTS TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC



Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D.  
Chancellor



Office of the Chancellor

Friday, March 27, 2020

Dear SUSLA Community,

Since yesterday, March 26, 2020, we have learned that there are two (2) additional positive cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) that affects our University community. These cases pertain to a full-time instructor and a full-time staff member. We ask that you keep these individuals and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

SUSLA continues to take proactive steps to respond to and minimize your threat of exposure. All facilities have been deep cleaned and sanitized consistently throughout each day. Additionally, SUSLA will be providing extra cleaning to those spaces known to have been recently visited by these individuals. Our University administration continues to support electronic learning platforms for students, along with remote work environments for employees, which align with the social distancing mandates of both local and state agencies. In-person classes were cancelled on March 16. SUSLA had no known threats reported at that time. Posters, flyers and electronic notifications noting CDC safety guidelines have been distributed consistently to students, faculty and staff.

If you display symptoms or think you have been exposed to the Coronavirus, please follow the CDC Coronavirus guidelines ([cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus)) and seek medical help. **The University emphasizes the CDC directives regarding those who have possibly been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19:**

- Self-quarantine and self-monitor for symptoms for up to 14 days
  - According to the CDC, symptoms may include fever, cough, shortness of breath or respiratory symptoms
- If symptoms are present at any time, self-isolate and contact a healthcare professional immediately.
- Let your healthcare professional know that there has been exposure to someone with COVID-19 so that you can be tested if warranted.

All individuals, regardless of contact with someone with COVID-19, should continue to follow CDC guidelines to decrease the chances of contracting and spreading the virus:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneezes with tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Cough into your elbow.
- Allow at least 6 feet of space between you and other people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

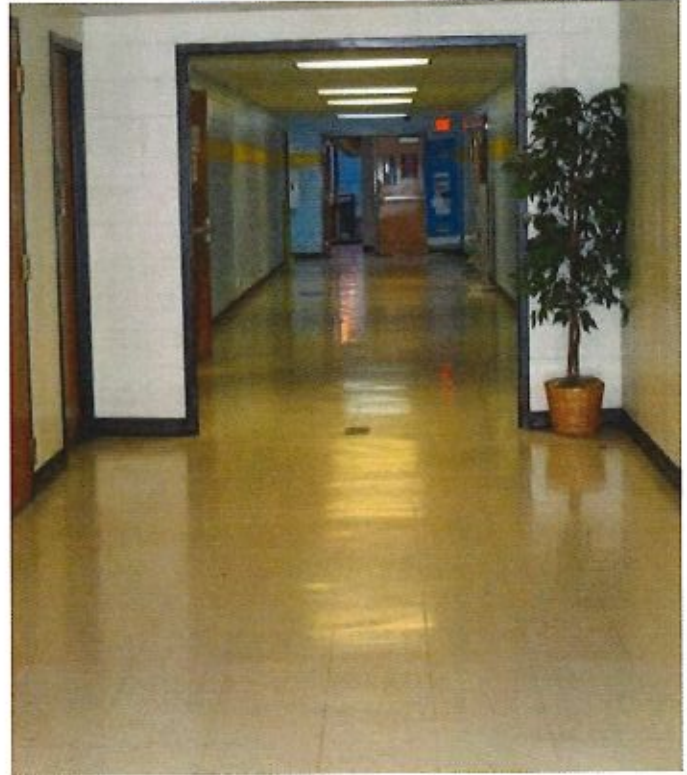
All SUSLA employees who have initiated testing, or have tested positive, are asked to self-report by completing the **Incident Report Form and the Employee Return to work Travel Exposure Screening Questionnaire** at <http://www.susla.edu/subhome/145>. We will continue to operate in the spirit of transparency, factual reporting, resiliency, and respect. For updates on the coronavirus, visit <http://www.susla.edu/subhome/145>. If you have additional questions, please contact Human Resources Director, Wayne Bryant at [whbryant@susla.edu](mailto:whbryant@susla.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D.



## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CLEARS CAMPUS CAUSING ALL IN-PERSON CLASSES CANCELLED



All in-person classes were canceled on Friday, March 13, 2020, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Classrooms, lecture halls, and labs were left empty due to fears of spreading the virus. Campus events were also cancelled until further notice, and students in residential housing were encouraged to go home if they could. To keep SUSLA students, faculty, and staff safe, classes will be offered remotely beginning on March 30, 2020. "Moving to remote instruction won't affect me much, because I already take classes online. I do think that students who aren't used to it, might have a problem switching over. It's completely different than sitting in a classroom. If you don't have self-discipline, it will be hard," stated Freshman Aldarius Sparks. Training classes were offered to students, and faculty to help with the transition.



**SUSLA RESPONDS TO  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
**GET UPDATES HERE**

**SUSLA IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING YOU SAFE  
DURING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)**



# SUSLA HOSTS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECEPTION AT MSKICK



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In February Dr. Ellis and the SUSLA family hosted the Southern University Board of Supervisors Meeting at the main campus on MLK. The meeting included two days of events beginning with a Community Partners Reception on Thursday evening, February 20th at the Milam Street Kitchen Incubator and Community Kitchen (MSKICK). Dr. Ellis and the team showcased the outstanding accomplishments of students, faculty and staff through informative presentations and demonstrations. At the event, Dr. Ellis, Board Chairman Domoine Rutledge along with the Honorable Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert Jr. and System President Ray Belton engaged distinguished guests from the public and private sectors.





# SUSLA HOSTS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING



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The second day, February 21, 2020 kicked off a full day of committee meetings as members rolled up their sleeves and got down to SU System business. Each campus represented with reports of success and challenges with attention on growth and sustainability at every level. LED presented a check for \$1.135 million for economic development funding to spur workforce, aerospace, and entrepreneurial programs at the SUSLA campus. Dr. Rodney A. Ellis presented the Dr. Shelby B. Sanders 1st Generation Endowment in the amount of \$100,000 in honor of his lovely mother who passed away last year. The SUSLA Alumni Association donated \$20,000 for student scholarships. Linzola Winzer received the Southern University System Above and Beyond Award.





## SUSLA PARTNERS WITH SOUTHERN SHREVEPORT JAGS AS THE PREFERRED EDUCATIONAL PROVIDER FOR LOCAL FOOTBALL PROGRAM



Shreveport, LA – On Sunday, March 8, 2020, Dr. Rodney Ellis, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), signed an agreement with a new non-profit organization, Southern Shreveport-Jags, to become the preferred educational partner for the Shreveport Jags football program.

Lalita Jenkins, Southern Shreveport-Jags, CEO states, "This opportunity will allow athletes who are still seeking Division 1 opportunities after national signing day to maintain their eligibility and potentially play football with NCAA Division I, Division II, Division III or NAIA Junior college teams across the Nation". Players selected for the Southern Shreveport-Jags will compete against other notable football programs such as Blinn College, Navarro College and Tyler Junior College.

Selected student athletes who were close to a scholarship offer but may need more time to improve either their football ability or improve their academic ability are perfect candidates for the Southern Shreveport Jags football program. Dr. Melva Williams, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, is excited that SUSLA will play a vital role in preparing these students for higher education beyond SUSLA as the campus will serve as the educational provider to assist these elite athletes in reaching their athletic goals. The University will provide course offerings, testing services, housing in the state-of-the-art student apartments (Jaguar Courtyard), meals and academic support services.

**For more information:**

**Contact Lalita Jenkins, CEO of Southern Shreveport-Jags**  
[jenkins.ssjagsfootball@gmail.com](mailto:jenkins.ssjagsfootball@gmail.com)

**To receive information about the JAGS Enrollment Process**  
**at Southern University at Shreveport:**  
[info.ssjags@gmail.com](mailto:info.ssjags@gmail.com)



# STATE OF BLACK SHREVEPORT 8TH ANNUAL SUMMIT



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On February 29, 2020, The State of Black Shreveport held their 8th Annual Summit at SUSLA to discuss important topics impacting the black community. Titled "2020 Symposium and Economic Summit," the event featured speakers and panelists, including Southern Univeristy's Chancellor, Dr. Ellis, and Mayor Adrian Perkins, on the economy, education, social and criminal justice reform along with local, state and national politics. The event was designed to empower, develop strategies, and address challenges facing the black community.





## FOREVER BRAVE AFRICAN AMERICAN MILITARY EXPERIENCE



Southern University at Shreveport Louisiana's Veterans Upward Bound Program hosted the "Forever Brave: African American Military Experience" on Thursday, February 27th, 2020 at the Alphonso Jackson Building. The University celebrated Black History month by recognizing the Brave African American Men and Women that served to protect our Country. The Program highlighted those who paved the way for others to serve in the military. The audience had the opportunity to remember the Buffalo Soldiers who fought during the Civil War Era, The First Black Female Battalion during the War World II, along with the Montford Marines who were required to fight for their country and yet not attend boot camp with the same men they fought for freedom due to the color of their skin. African American Men and Women have always been willing to serve for the rights of the United States of America even when they were not allowed to have the rights for Freedom. The Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church Praise Dancers paid homage by dancing to the National Black Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing". SUSLA 's Veterans Upward Bound salutes all those who have served, and know that we are the "Land of the Free; Because of the Brave".





## PROFESSOR RECEIVES CITATION FROM THE U.S. SENATE ON THE 2018-19 U.S. FULLBRIGHT SCHOLAR AWARD

JOHN KENNEDY  
LOUISIANA

SUITE SR-416  
RUSSELL BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4623

United States Senate

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN OF  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
BUDGET  
JUDICIARY  
SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

January 14, 2020

Dr. Joseph Orban  
9465 Garfield Drive  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71118

Dear Dr. Orban,

It is my pleasure to offer you my sincerest congratulations on your receipt of a Fulbright award. The Fulbright award is among our nations' most prestigious, sought after, and competitive award, and your receipt is a testament to your drive and determination.

It is my hope that you find great pride in knowing that your hard work and dedication has paid off. The award provides the recipient a life changing opportunity to immerse yourself in another culture and make an impact that transcends national borders. I am confident that your experience will reinforce your desire to pursue a career that improves the lives of those around you.

On behalf of the state of Louisiana, I again congratulate you on this tremendous achievement! I know you will continue to make our great state proud. I wish you the best in the pursuit of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy  
United States Senator



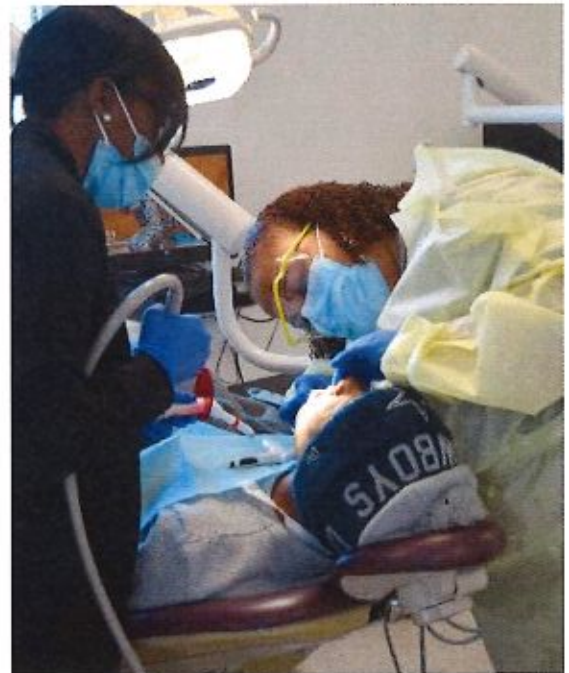
## 3RD ANNUAL DENTISTRY FROM THE HEART

SUSLA's Dental Hygiene Program partnered with Dentistry from the Heart (DFTH), and Miles for Smiles, for the third year in a row to offer free dental services to the community on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Local dentists and hygienists provided cleanings, fillings, and extractions for over 100 patients.

"This year was a well-attended event. We had a lot of support from the local dental community and SUSLA dental hygiene department. The leadership at SUSLA was very helpful in organizing this event. The doctors were all extremely pleased with how well the event was organized. We all are collectively looking forward to expanding on the Give Kids A Smile component. Dentistry from the Heart once again was very effective for the Shreveport Bossier community," stated Jeremy Alexander, owner of Miles for Smiles.

Give Kids a Smile participated for the first time this year, providing dental education for children, along with free dental exams. They also offered cavity-preventing fluoride treatment and cavity-preventing dental sealants. This year's event included a health fair, interactive recruiting activities spotlighting SUSLA programs, and a kid's activity zone. The mission was to educate the public and promote the importance of daily, thorough dental care, and overall oral health. Willis-Knighton Health System joined this year's event as a presenting sponsor with other corporate and community partners also participating.

Jasmine Horton stated, "With tremendous support from area dental partners, volunteers, and SUSLA's Dental Hygiene program, Dentistry from the Heart was a great success. This was my first time being involved with the event. I must commend SUSLA for its impactful service within the community. I look forward to next year's event."



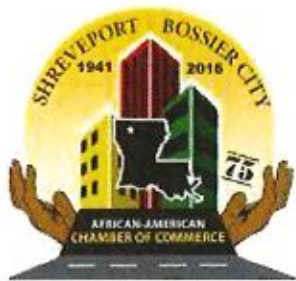


## SUSLA BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEUR CENTER LAUNCHES SHREVE.BIZ IN SUPPORT OF STRUGGLING LOCAL BUSINESSES

A partnership including the City of Shreveport, SUSLA, CoHab, The Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, and the Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber today announced the launch of Shreve.biz, a helpdesk for Shreveport and Caddo area businesses navigating the economic strains imposed by the COVID-19 crisis.

The [Shreve.biz](#) website, which is now live, will contain useful information about the various forms of financial and other assistance available to businesses, and in-depth support for small businesses will be available via phone and video. A volunteer team consisting of local professionals with banking, accounting, legal, and business backgrounds will offer free, private, one-on-one counseling for local business owners and managers. These volunteers will be equipped to answer common questions and help business owners understand and access the various forms of aid that are available – such as SBA Disaster Loans, federal stimulus dollars, and private credit options.

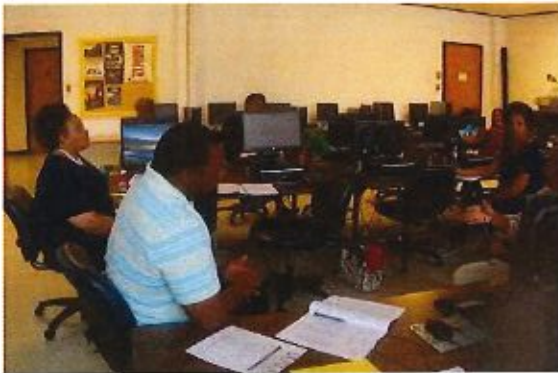
SUSLA's Business and Entrepreneur Center lead efforts to build this coalition. Work that evolve from programming in conjunction with CoHab, the Minority Supplier Institute, and JM Enterprises, resources were used to develop the infrastructure to provide the tool for the businesses. Amanda Flynn, a contractor for SUSLA, under the direction of Darrin Dixon, Director of the Center, coordinated efforts to bring this program on-line at a crucial time in the existence of the small business community in Northwest Louisiana.



#ComeBeSouthern



## E-LEARNING PREPARES STUDENTS & FACULTY FOR EXPANDED DISTANCE LEARNING



### SPOTLIGHT OF E-LEARNING FACULTY:

**MRS. CHERYL BLACKSHIRE** provided the first Tips and Strategies Webinar on "How to Use Respondus" and shared her experience and resources with faculty to empower them to utilize a strategy to prevent students from cheating on quizzes or examinations.

**MRS. MARCI COLLINS** facilitated the virtual training for math instructors using My Math Lab and provided guidelines for math instructors which can be found in the Faculty Resource Center.



## STUDENTS:

The Southern University System moved to a new Moodle consolidation at the beginning of the spring semester. From January 13, 2020, the E-Learning Department, along with faculty and staff, have provided training and assistance to over 90% of SUSLA's students. Teamwork makes the dream work. The E-Learning staff worked closely with the Graphic Services Coordinator to create flyers. The Division of Institutional Advancement assisted with disseminating flyers around campus and via email to the SUSLA community. This advanced initiative helped the campus prepare for the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

During the onset of COVID-19, Mrs. Gwendolyn Tennell began conducting face-to-face training sessions for students to explain how to navigate through Moodle. After the inception of COVID-19, classes moved to a virtual environment; therefore, Mrs. Tennell conducted a live webinar for students to provide training to navigate through Moodle. The recording has been posted in the Student Resource Center.

Per Ms. Harold Wilson's recommendation during a meeting in 2016, an online orientation for students was developed. Since the origin of online orientation, it has evolved into the Student Resource Center. The Student Resource Center is continually changing to meet the needs of the students.

In the Student Resource Center, you will find below: Ranges from FAQs to training videos on how to navigate through Moodle, and stay informed with any campus updates.

## FACULTY:

The Office of E-Learning provides faculty with ongoing training throughout the years which has helped to familiarize the faculty with Moodle. The system transitioned to a new version of Moodle in November of 2019. Ms. Chrisena Williams, Coordinator of LMS/Web Services/Moodle Educator and Certified Instructor, conducted training for the faculty to teach them "How to Utilize Moodle and to build online and hybrid courses.

The E-Learning staff also provided the following webinars to faculty from March 18th - 20th:

- Moodle Basic Navigation
- How to Communicate With Your Students
- Gradebook Setup\_Quiz/Exams
- MATH\_MyMathLab

The training sessions will continue each week. The E-Learning Office and The Academy of Excellence have begun offering Tips and Strategies Webinars for faculty every Thursday @ 2:00 p.m. Please email your ideas for virtual training to Dr. Veronica McEachin @ vmceachin@susla.edu. We are also looking for faculty members to conduct a webinar on Tips and Strategies for Online Faculty.

All webinar recordings will continue to be uploaded in The Faculty Resource Center.

## STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER:

- Moodle FAQs
- Moodle Basics for Students\_Video
- Academic Calendar
- Locksmith@SUSLA
- Moodle Skymail Campus Login & Wifi Sign On Assistance
- University Library
- Center for Student Success
- Moodle 3.7 Student Manual
- Mobile and Desktop Apps
- Grammarly
- Student Tutorials
- GCFLearnFree
- Guide to Grammar and Writing

Students are encouraged to report all problems to E-Learning by accessing the E-Learning webpage vi to describe their issue. Problems are being solved throughout the day.

Students are encouraged to [click here](#) to report all problems.

## FACULTY RESOURCE CENTER:

- SUS Best Practices for Online Teaching
- SUS Course Evaluation Checklist
- University Library
- Pearson Training Webinar for Revel
- Pearson Training Webinar for Mastering
- Pearson Technical Support
- E-Learning Checklist
- E-Learning Accountability Agreement
- How to Communicate With Your Students
- Moodle Basic Navigation
- Gradebook Setup\_Quiz/Exams
- MATH\_MyMathLab
- Moodle Basics for Students
- Strategies to create presence in online courses
- Manual-Moodle Made Easier for Faculty
- Finding your way around Moodle 3.7
- Learn Moodle

Faculty is encouraged to report all problems to E-Learning by accessing the E-Learning webpage video to describe their issue. Problems are being solved throughout the day.

Faculty is encouraged to [click here](#) to report all problems.



# SUSLA NOTIFIED OF 100% ONLINE CLASSES

**CLASSES ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

FOR HELP... CLICK HERE

# 100% ONLINE



## HOW TO ACCESS ONLINE COURSES

**1ST STEP:** GO TO [SUSLA.EDU](http://SUSLA.EDU)

**2ND STEP:** CLICK ON "LOG INTO MOODLE"



**3RD STEP:** CLICK ON "SIGN INTO MOODLE"



**4TH STEP:** CLICK ON "LOGIN" (RIGHT CORNER)



Username: [FirstName.LastName@sus.edu](mailto:FirstName.LastName@sus.edu)

Password: First 4 Letters in Last Name & Last 4 Digits of SSN

Example: Name: John Doe & SSN: XXX-XX-1234

Password: doe1234

**5TH STEP:** CLICK ON DASHBOARD TO ACCESS COURSES



If you still cannot login,  
please go to the [6th step](#).

**6TH STEP:** CLICK ON "RESET CHANGE YOUR PASSWORD"



**7TH STEP:** IF YOU STILL CANNOT LOG INTO MOODLE, CLICK BELOW TO ADDRESS E-LEARNING PROBLEMS.

[STUDENT PROBLEMS](#) [FACULTY PROBLEMS](#)





# SUSLA REACHES OUT TO COMMUNITY TO HELP MEET OVERWHELMING NEEDS: TOGETHER WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS



## COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

### SUSLA SHIFTS TO 100% ONLINE

In the wake of the Coronavirus, you can help Southern University at Shreveport meet the extreme levels of unanticipated needs and expenses. Throughout history, whenever our schools have been tested with a crisis, you, our faithful friends, alumni, and community have always been there, hand in hand with us to pass the test. Now, more than ever, our students and campus needs your help. Here's how...

### HOW TO DONATE

Online at [www.susla.edu/page/give-to-susla](http://www.susla.edu/page/give-to-susla)

Mail check to: SUSLA Advancement Office  
3050 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Shreveport, LA 71107

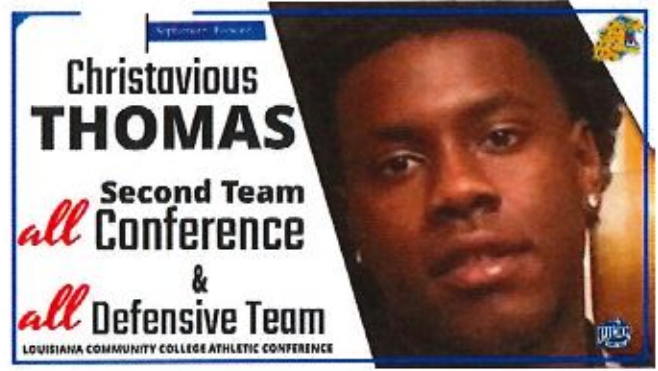
*\*Make check payable to any of the following SUSLA registered non-profits:  
SUS Foundation, Inc.; Memo: Adv. COVID-19  
SUSLA CDC; Memo: Adv. COVID-19 Relief  
SUSLA Alumni Assoc.; Memo: Adv. COVID-19*



**Together, we WILL get through this!**



## MEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS HONORED IN THE LOUISIANA COMMUNITY ATHLETIC COLLEGE CONFERENCE CONGRATS TO OUR STUDENT PLAYERS



**#23 LATREAVIN BLACK**  
 Sophomore/Forward  
 1st Team All-Conference Team  
 All-Conference Defensive Team  
 Co-Player of the year  
 #1 in Nation for Off. Rebounds  
 #1 in Nation for Rebounds per game  
 National Honoree in the NJCAA

**#24 QUILLIN DIXON**  
 Freshman/Guard  
 2nd Team All-Conference

**#32 CHRISTAVIOUS THOMAS**  
 Sophomore/Forward  
 2nd Team All-Conference Team  
 All-Conference Defensive Team

## STUDENT JAGUAR OF THE MONTH

Gemienain Jeter is majoring in Sociology, and has reached his final semester. He was born in Shreveport, but grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a graduate of Sarah T. Reed High School in New Orleans, Gemienain has always contemplated the idea of college. After attending a few schools, SUSLA became the college of his choice. He plans to continue his education after graduation, and pursue a BA in Sociology. Gemienain has always been adventurous, and he is ready to make a big impact on the world.





## SUSLA STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Je'Rell King is a mother of three who experienced adversity while being a single mother, and college student. She and her children witnessed the death of her son's father in 2010, and in 2016 her 2-year-old daughter suffered a stroke. These life-changing events took her on a nine-year rollercoaster ride of chasing her degree.

Born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, Je'Rell graduated from Captain Shreve High School in 2006 with a 4.0 GPA. A few years later, dreams of becoming a nurse lead her to Southern University at Shreveport. Following the start of prerequisites in 2009, the father of her son was murdered in her home. Je'Rell and two of her children witnessed the shooting.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, she took a break from school for a couple of years. Once refocused, Je'Rell began prerequisites for nursing at SUSLA for the second time. In 2013, she applied for RN clinicals and was denied. She then applied for phlebotomy and was accepted. However, a conversation with a family member reminded her that the dream was not to become a phlebotomist, it was to become a nurse. Afterwards, in 2015, she applied for LPN school at SUSLA with a renewed focus and graduated a year later. The path to becoming a nurse seemed clear, until another tragedy struck. Je'Rell's 2-year old daughter endured a stroke and lost function in her left extremities.

As Ms. King shifted all her attention to the recovery of her daughter, college was once again put on hold until the fall of 2017. She entered nursing school that year and became the first person to graduate from college in 2018 on the maternal side of her family. She is currently working as a respiratory nurse at a local nursing & rehabilitation center.

Although Je'Rell King was on and off campus over several years, her overall experience at Southern University Shreveport was great. She gives credit to those in the program who helped her become the professional nurse she is today. "I'm definitely glad that I went to Southern University at Shreveport! I compare myself to other nurses in the field, and I notice that things they had to wait to learn, I already knew. The instructors made sure I was prepared for everything," stated Je'Rell.

**“Giving up is not an option, if you do,  
you have nothing to fall back on.”**

- Je'Rell King



Top: Photo of SUSLA Alumni, Je'Rell King.

Bottom: Photos of King's children, La'Darien, Madison, and Adreunna.





The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the  
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Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D., Chancellor

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Southern University at Shreveport does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, or any other protected class.

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