

# ST. JOE A E-NEWS

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA

Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service • Diversity

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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**SPECIAL EDITION**  
2019 *Commencement*



CONGRATULATIONS 2019 GRADUATES!

## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



It is with honor and distinction that I acknowledge and congratulate the Spring 2019 Graduating Class. This year's commencement is a manifestation of their personal triumphs and ambition. This age-old ritual culminates their perseverance and academic achievements at Southern University at Shreveport. It is also an indicator of the support provided by close family and friends.

For our graduates, this moment signifies new opportunities as they enter another phase of their lifelong journey. We are confident, the Southern University at Shreveport experience has prepared them to be successful members of the broader community. As part of this educational enterprise, our graduates have invested in themselves and their future with countless hours of rigorous studying, discipline and have overcome barriers which could have threatened completion of their journey. These character-building moments lend themselves to


good citizenship, personal and professional success.

Now, as they create new beginnings, it is with great joy and pride that the Southern University at Shreveport family salutes our graduates on this most notable accomplishment. The power of education and knowledge is a power that is now theirs and one that can never be taken away.



### TO OUR GRADUATES,

Welcome to the mighty "*Jaguar Nation!*" You now stand on the shoulders of faculty, staff, and alumni of this great institution who have blazed the trails on which you travel, and we are so proud of you!

  
Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor



Dr. Lalita Rogers, University Registrar excited to award graduates their degrees

## EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION IS IN THE AIR!

**“THIS IS THE MOMENT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR...WHAT WE’VE WORKED SO HARD FOR”** - expressed one of the graduates as she waited anxiously in the line-up preparing for the processional! On May 20, 2019 SUSLA’s Spring Commencement was celebrated at the Shreveport Convention Center. Over 5,000 family members and well-wishers filled the Convention Center to help celebrate the graduates’ achievements.

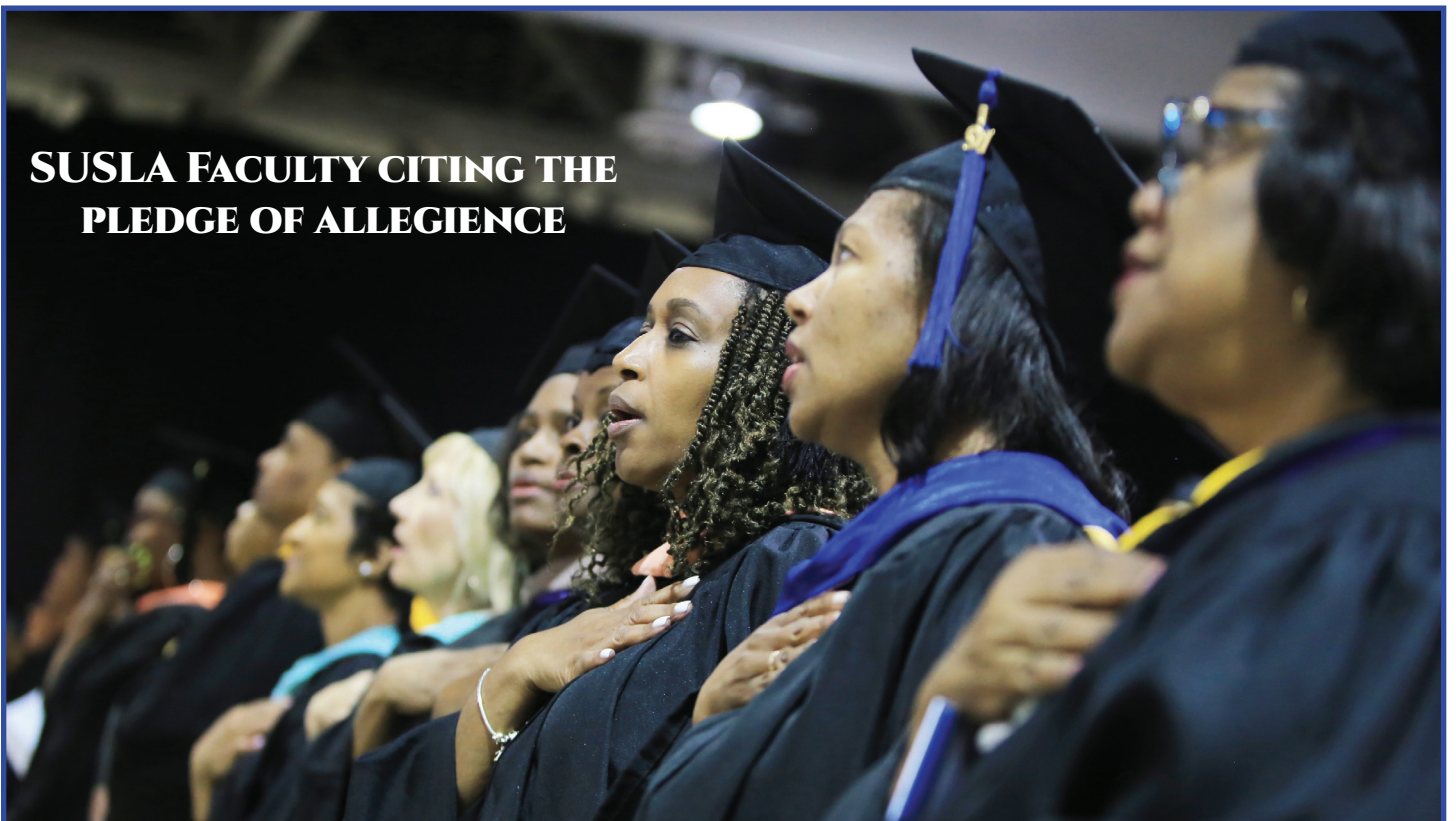


Grand Marshall, Florese Hunt leads processional during commencement ceremony



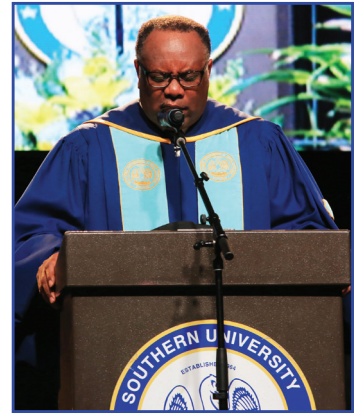
Chief Student Marshall, Antonia Wright leads her fellow graduates in the procession

## SUSLA FACULTY CITING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE



## REVEREND DR. SAMUEL C. TOLBERT, JR. DELIVERS THE INVOCATION

Commencement program participants included: SUSLA Chancellor Dr. Rodney A. Ellis; SU System President Dr. Ray L. Belton; SU System Board of Supervisors S. Albert Gilliam and Rev., Dr. Sam C. Tolbert, Jr.; Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins; Voices of Unity Choral Dir. Jerry L. Maiden Jr.; VC of Community and Workforce Development Janice Sneed; VC for Academic Affairs Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams; VC for Student Affairs & Enrollment Dr. Melva Williams; CELT Director Rhonda Young and SUSLA Alumni Assoc. VP Charles Johnson. Additional guests joining Dr. Ellis on the podium were Caddo Parish Schools Superintendent Dr. Lamar Goree; CPSB Board Member Dottie Bell; Booker T. Washington High School Principal and members of SUSLA Administration.



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY CITY OF SHREVEPORT'S HONORABLE MAYOR ADRIAN PERKINS



Janice Sneed, VC of Community & Workforce Development

Introduced by Janice Sneed, VC of Community and Workforce Development, Mayor Perkins not only encourages the graduates with his Keynote Address, he inspires the audience with memories of being raised by a single mother. The Mayor shared how his modest upbringing fueled his desire to succeed and served as motivation to not allow his dreams to be deterred by his surroundings of poverty and “*nay-sayers*”.



Dr. Ellis thanked Mayor Perkins and presented him with a token of appreciation from SUSLA.

## SUSLA RECOGNIZES REVEREND, DR. JOE R. GANT, JR. FOR HIS LEGACY OF SERVICE

Special moments were captured when Dr. Ellis along with System President, Dr. Ray L. Belton recognized former SU System Board Member Rev., Dr. Joe R. Gant, Jr. for his legacy of nearly four decades of service to SUSLA students, employees, and citizens of NW Louisiana through his work on the Board. Gant accepted his award by thanking his wife and family for supporting him over the years and, by thanking the Board and citizens for allowing him the privilege of representing SUSLA.



## **BTW STUDENTS MAKE HISTORY- GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL/SUSLA DUAL ENROLLMENT WITH INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS**



During the ceremony, Dr. Ellis, along with Caddo Schools Superintendent Dr. Lamar Goree and Booker T. Washington High School Principal Kristy Young recognized five BTW students for completing a pilot dual enrollment program at SUSLA with industry certifications.

Graduating with Certificates of Technical Studies in Child Development were: Makayla C. Davis, Ayjah J. Jones, Makayla D. Lampkin, Rory A. Tyler, and Domo'Nesha L. Washington. The program is a first in SUSLA history.

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## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOR LIFE TRANSITIONS (CELT) SPECIAL NEEDS GRADUATES CAPTURE HEARTS OF ALL!**



Presented diplomas by Program Director Rhonda Young, CELT students capture the hearts of the audience as some are so eager to receive their diplomas, they sprint across the stage with joy. Special needs students overcome odds and complete the program proving that SUSLA is a place where all can achieve their dreams and obtain marketable skills to become employable and self-sufficient.

## **GRADUATES RECEIVE MORE THAN CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS, AND DEGREES - PRIDE IN FINISHING WHAT THEY STARTED!**

One-by-one, nearly 300 graduates made their way across the stage to accept degrees and certificates in various disciplines representing the manifestation of their accomplishments. Graduates were recognized with academic degrees, Certificates and Diplomas for Technical Studies, and for some, the document that has long eluded them – their GED High School Diploma.



### **GRADUATES CONFERRED!**

*“And now, by the power vested in me... You May Now Turn Your Tassels...”* As Dr. Ellis spoke the words and conferred the graduates, emotions overflowed as the Convention Center erupted with cheers, swells of pride and a mighty roar for and from the 2019 Class of Jaguars!



**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT**  
**LIST OF 2019 CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES CONFERRED**

**DIVISION OF ALLIED HEALTH & NURSING**

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE  
Nursing, 71

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE  
Dental Hygiene, 12  
Health Information Technology\*, 4  
Medical Lab Technician\*, 6  
Radiologic Technology, 9  
Respiratory Therapy, 6  
Surgical Technology, 6

CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE  
Medical Coding Specialist\*, 4

CERTIFICATE OF TECHNICAL STUDIES  
Dialysis Technician, 4  
Emergency Medical Technology, 13  
Healthcare Access Associate\*, 2  
Phlebotomy\*, 23  
Sterile Processing Technician, 7

TECHNICAL DIPLOMA  
Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic, 16

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**DIVISION OF BUSINESS, SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH-  
EMATICS**

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE  
Accounting\*, 7  
Biology, 3  
Business Management\*, 14  
Computer Science\*, 4  
Louisiana Transfer – Biological Science\*, 1

ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES  
Business Administration, 4  
Computer Information Systems, 1  
Science, 5  
Science/Pre-Allied Health\*, 2

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE  
Accounting Technology Clerk, 1  
Computer Networking Technology, 5  
Web Development\*, 3

DIPLOMA OF TECHNICAL STUDIES  
Airframe and PowerPlant maintenance Technology, 11

\* DENOTES DUAL DEGREES



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**DIVISION OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND EDUCATION**

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE  
Human Services, 9

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS  
Louisiana Transfer Criminal Justice, 5  
Mass Communication, 5

ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES  
General Education\*, 40  
Health and Physical Education, 2  
Psychology\*, 9  
Associate of Applied Science  
Criminal Justice Administration, 27

CERTIFICATE OF TECHNICAL STUDIES  
Child Development, 8

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ADULT EDUCATION  
COMPLETION CERTIFICATES, 14

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING, 12

COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOR LIFE TRANSITIONS (CELT), 3

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## JAGUAR EMPLOYEE of the MONTH

### DR. RODNEY A. ELLIS, CHANCELLOR IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE SIR' MARQUIS HALL AS JAGUAR OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE 2019

**SIR' MARQUIS HALL** epitomizes the spirit of teamwork. Even though the testing center publishes its testing dates and times, he never turns down a student that needs testing in order for them to enroll in the necessary classes even at the expense of delaying his personal obligations.

In addition, he makes the testing center available for academic programs as well as those that require testing for professional license. He has worked diligently to make SUSLA the only testing site for aviation professionals in north Louisiana.

He has taken on the additional responsibility to have SUSLA's testing certified for Aerospace – (CATS); ACT; ACCUPLACER and HESIT.

Affectionately known as “Mark” also serves as recruiter for the Office of Enrollment Management and coaches the SUSLA cheer and dance. His attitude is “*Students First*”

Marquis maintains a positive attitude and an inspiring personality. Mr. Hall is one of SUSLA's unsung hero's.



### ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENT BODY CONGRATULATIONS MR. HALL - EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

## JAGUAR STUDENT of the MONTH



**ANTONIA WRIGHT** is a 53 years old who received an Associate Degree in Business. Ms. Wright graduated with an overall average GPA of 3.7. She is a proud mother of two daughters. Antonio stated “I was motivated and decided to go back to school after both of my girls graduated from college. They are a true motivating force in my life”.

Antonia is the proud owner and curator of Studio Toni Hair Salon. Ms. Wright has worked hard knew it would be challenge to obtain her degree while working full-time and being a full-time student at SUSLA

Her future plans are to continue her education and further her studies at Wiley College where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Her plan is to use that degree to elevate and expand my business.

Ms. Wright had the distinct honor of representing the 2019 graduating class at SUSLA as Chief Student Marshall.

### SUSLA PROUDLY SALUTES ANTONIA. WRIGHT AS “JAGUAR STUDENT OF THE MONTH”.



REGISTER  
FOR

Summer School

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or GET AHEAD!"

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Online or On Campus | Housing Available

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

*JUNE 5: Southern University Museum of Arts*

*Featuring Exhibits Honoring*

*"Black Music Month"*

*For more information, CALL: (318) 670-9631*



**REGISTER NOW!**  
**JUNE 6 - JULY 28, 2019**

**Summer  
Camp**

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 email [continuinged@susla.edu](mailto:continuinged@susla.edu)

**SUSLA**  
 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA

**YOUTH BASKETBALL  
 SUMMER CAMP**

DIRECTED BY SUSLA WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES

**JUNE 11 - 14**  
 9:00AM - 1:00PM

**BOYS & GIRL'S AGES 9-13**



- \*BASIC AND ADVANCED FUNDAMENTALS\*
- \*BALL HANDLING\*
- \*PASSING\*
- \*SHOOTING\*
- \*DEFENSE\*
- \*WORK ETHIC\*
- \*TEAM WORK\*
- \*POSITIVE ATTITUDE\*

**Camp Fee:**  
**\$150**  
 (Lunch included)

To register and confirm,  
 email: [mhines@susla.edu](mailto:mhines@susla.edu)



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

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Section 504 Coordinator: Jerushka Ellis, Health & Physical Education Complex, Room 314, (318) 670-9367.

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