



Dear Graduates of the Class of 2020,

Congratulations on completing your studies at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA). Our campus community commends the graduates of the Class of 2020 for surviving and persevering through this global pandemic to finish your final semester at SUSLA. This moment is memorable and should forever be a defining moment for you!

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of face-to-face classes and traditional spring commencement ceremonies, not only for SUSLA but at colleges and universities across the nation. During this same time, the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others who have been targeted because of their skin color have brought hurt, anger, and frustration to many across the country. These recent events have added to the chaos of our current time. However, I know you will continue to persevere to achieve the many dreams you have for your future.

We hope that the experiences of the SUSLA 2020 Graduating Class will inspire many others to face and overcome adversity...For the struggle sharpens us with the skills to accomplish all we can be. So as you move forward in life, remember the words of Francis of Assisi, "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible!"

Graduates, their families, and friends are invited to watch SUSLA's Virtual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, June 27, 2020. The ceremony will be streamed online beginning at 2 p.m. at www.SUSLA.edu and on SUSLA's Facebook and YouTube pages.

Graduates, you have done a *fantastic* job through the challenges that have occurred this year. Your persistence, determination, and resilience will take you far in your profession and in life.

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome. -Booker T. Washington

Best Wishes,

Chancellor
Rodney A. Ellis, Ed.D.