

Southern University at Shreveport
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTHY BLUE TO PARTNER WITH THE MILAM STREET KITCHEN INCUBATOR AND COMMUNITY KITCHEN (MSKICK) TO SUPPORT HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Shreveport, LA – October 2, 2019 – Healthy Blue and the Milam Street Kitchen Incubator and Community Kitchen (MSKICK) will announce a new partnership to address food insecurity issues. Healthy Blue will make a \$25,000 donation to purchase four new commercial kitchen ranges that will allow MSKICK to increase food-storage capacity and assist in providing much-needed healthy food options to nearby individuals and families.

WHO: Healthy Blue / MSKICK
WHAT: Partnership Announcement
WHEN: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10 a.m.
WHERE: MSKICK 1210 Milam St. Shreveport, LA 71101

“We recognize and understand the impact food insecurity has on a community. Having access to nutritious food is something we sometimes take for granted,” said Aaron Lambert, president, Healthy Blue. “At Healthy Blue, one of our goals is to remove barriers to overall health and well-being and that includes supporting efforts to help ensure Louisianans have access to healthy nourishment. By partnering groups like MKICK, we can support the great work they accomplish every day by helping them reach more individuals in our communities.”

MSKICK pays homage to the community’s history of legendary restaurants fused with a need for economic revitalization and health and wellness services. MSKICK is a 5,000 square foot multi-purpose facility with an operations model comprised of two service divisions that include the Kitchen Incubator and the Community Kitchen.

- **The Kitchen Incubator** will provide training and business mentorship to budding chefs, while also creating jobs that contribute to the economic base of the community.
- The **Community Kitchen** will include the Community Café and the Culinary Medicine Center. The Community Café will offer consumers the opportunity to enjoy healthy, tasty meals while teaching hard and soft skills training to young adults who will work in various positions within the Café. The Culinary Medicine Center, based on best practices from some of the nation’s most notable schools of Medicine’s Teaching Kitchen Models, will deliver health and wellness services through culinary nutrition. Medical practitioners, medical students, and service providers will learn how to cook healthy

meals and then, pass culinary advice on to their patients/clients. The program will include education on diet, nutrition, and preventive medicine. To foster community cohesion, residents will also learn how to put a healthy spin on classic meal favorites by participating in weekly cooking classes alongside medical professionals.

SUSLA Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis states, “We are extremely grateful to Healthy Blue for investing in this project. Their partnership will positively impact the lives of citizens in this community for decades to come. What an exciting and meaningful way to get involved in making a difference.”

A multi-level collaboration between founding partners SUSLA, the City of Shreveport, HUD, and Shreveport Housing Authority, the project began in 2016, with a \$1 million Choice Neighborhood Planning and Action Activity grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to the City of Shreveport. The goal was to research a project to help revitalize the Allendale and Ledbetter Heights community. With input from residents and extensive research, the MSKICK concept evolved. Other major partners include The MSKICK Advisory Council, MLK Health Center, LSU Health Science Center, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation, LA Food Prize, and David Raines Community Health Center to name a few.

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