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**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**  
**Patricia Russell-McCloud, Esq.**

**PATRICIA RUSSELL-MCCLOUD, J.D.,  
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AUTHOR AND SPEAKER  
TO ADDRESS SUSLA'S GRADUATES**

Characterized as a “*Speaker’s Speaker*” Patricia Russell-McCloud specializes in inspiring and motivating business and individuals to stretch themselves beyond their old ways of thinking into new opportunities for success. Born in Indianapolis, IN, and graduating from Kentucky State University she knew that her true career connection was to prepare meaningful presentations for diverse audiences, and to meet them at their point of need.

Each year she speaks to more than 100,000 people in private and public organizations, in the United States and internationally.

Her client list includes, but is not limited to, AARP, National Association of Women’s Business Owners; AT&T, Women’s Food Service Forum, eWomen’s Network, Wal-Mart/Sam’s Club, General Motors, American Honda, Cox Enterprises, McDonald’s, Northrop Grumman, General Electric, McGraw Hill Publishing, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Xerox, Procter & Gamble, and The United States Postal Service.

As a member of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), she studied at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree at Howard University, School of Law, Washington, DC.

Prior to embarking upon her speaking career, Russell-McCloud was an attorney with the Federal Communications Commission, Chief, Complaints Branch, Broadcast Bureau, Washington, DC for ten years. Then she decided to follow her true passion which was to be a business entrepreneur and global professional orator.

She has received many honors, including being presented more than 300 keys to American cities. She has served as the 11th National President of The Links, Inc., and the National Parliamentarian to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has been named as one of the top five business motivators in the country by Black Enterprise Magazine. A resident of Atlanta, Georgia, Russell-McCloud is married to Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., the 127th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**INSIDE THIS EDITION**

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# 2018 Honors & Awards Convocation

Faculty, staff, students, and the community recently gathered together for the spring Honors & Awards Convocation. The awards program celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of our students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance during the spring and/or fall semesters. Honors designation status is achieved by earning a minimum term GPA of 3.0 or above on the 4.0 scale.

The guest speaker this year was television anchor and adjunct professor, Marquel Sennet. As a history educator, her presentation paid tribute to SUSLA's strong legacy in education. She shared how her parents had helped shaped her and her own personal educational journey.

Dorsey Summerfield, Jr. performed a musical tribute to the honorees followed by the awards presentation and special induction of students into the Phi Theta Kappa Beta Beta Nu chapter.

The division of Academic Affairs presented this year's Honors and Awards Convocation on Thursday, April 12, 2018, in the Jesse N. Stone, Jr. Lecture Hall.



**Chancellor's List (4.0)**



**Phi Theta Kappa Inductees**



**Human Services Internship Awards**



**STEM Award Recipients**



**Junior Achievement Volunteers**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CHERYLE WHEELER-JOHNSON, NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (LASAP)

Congratulations to Cheryle Wheeler-Johnson, Program Director of Upward Bound Sabine. Ms. Wheeler-Johnson has been installed as President-Elect of The Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LASAP). LASAP is a state association whose mission is to promote the development, improvement, and extension of educational opportunities to every student in the state of Louisiana regardless of race, creed, or physical limitation. They strive to assist those who experience financial, cultural, or educational barriers to developing their fullest potential.

LASAP's membership consists of professionals that work within the Federal TRIO Programs. These programs facilitate the students' goal of successful matriculation from high school into postsecondary education.

LASAP was founded in 1973 under the wisdom and guidance of the late Walter O. Mason, U.S. Department of Education, Region VI Grants Representative. LASAP is a member of the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) and the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE).



## DARRIN DIXON NAMED 2018 POWER MOVER



Congratulations to Darrin Dixon, Director for Small Business Development at SUSLA on receiving the 2018 Power Movers Award. Shufflin' Along Foundation presented the award at an Awards Ceremony and Scholarship Reception on Friday, April 13 at the Central ArtStation Downtown Shreveport. This award highlights individuals in the Northern Louisiana and East Texas areas that have made great strides on a local, regional and national level.

Dixon was nominated as this year's honoree because of his establishment of the Small, Women and Minority-Owned Business Incubator program in 2014. The Incubator serves 125 businesses per year. Darrin also writes community development grants for Southern University at Shreveport, generating over \$1.5 million in grants to date. *"Mr. Dixon has a quiet demeanor, but a HUGE HEART for his community and the people he serves and is deserving of this honor"*, stated Roshanda Spears, Founding Executive Director of Shufflin' Along Foundation.

Janice Sneed, Vice-Chancellor for Community & Workforce Development at SUSLA says, *"Darrin continues to represent SUSLA in such a positive light, and I'm so proud of the work that he does for Southern University at Shreveport and the community at large."* (This article was originally written to appear in the CWD Newsletter).





# COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CWD Annual Spring Retreat

## COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LOOKS AHEAD TO SUCCESS

*“A Way Forward: Partnering for Success”* was the theme for the Community & Workforce Development Spring Retreat on Friday, March 29, 2018, at the Hattie Perry Park Community Center. *“Our Annual Spring Retreat is a time to take a step back to reflect on the past year, assess and make strategic plans to move forward,”* said Janice Sneed, Vice Chancellor for Community and Workforce Development (CWD) at Southern University at Shreveport .

The retreat began with a panel discussion from a group of powerhouse women. Bonnie Moore, Director for the City of Shreveport’s Department of Community Development; Lydia Jackson, Capital One, CRA Business Development Officer; and Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs all spoke on the topic: *Our Partnership Today, Yesterday and Tomorrow*. Jackson stated, *“When looking at entering into a partnership, we look for shared ownership, principals, and values, all in which we find with our partnership with SUSLA.”*



Bonnie Moore



Lydia Jackson



Dr. Sharron H. Williams

Along with a delicious lunch provided by Sassi’s Catering (one of our business incubator clients), the attendees were treated to a success story from one of the Youth NetWORK Initiative (YNI) program participants. India Davis shared her testimony on enrolling in the HISET program in January 2017 and receiving her diploma in February 2018. She said, *“The program really taught me great soft and hard skills to help me begin my career in the music producing industry.”* Davis is now interning with Brent Latin at Young Pros Entertainment in Shreveport through SUSLA’s YNI Work Experience program.



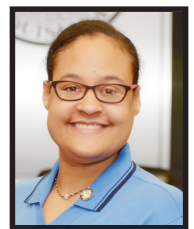
Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor for SUSLA addressed participants during the retreat. *“Community engagement, relevant training, and enterprises that generate revenue should drive the division’s vision and framework to move the University forward,”* stated Ellis. The attendees also received training on Annual Institutional Reporting and 2019 budget planning from Devonye Brown,



Devonye Brown



Stephanie Rogers



Krista Snell

Assessment Coordinator at SUSLA. Stephanie Rogers, Chief Advancement Officer and Kristi Snell, Director of Marketing & University Relations gave updates and best practices from their areas.



Darrin Dixon



Larry Ferdinand



Don Howard



Janice Sneed

Community and Workforce Development Team Leaders’ (Darrin Dixon, Larry Ferdinand, Don Howard and Janice Sneed) also presented over lunch on the book, *“Leading Out of Box Change”*, by Doug Eadie. The next CWD retreat will be in March 2019. Community and Workforce Development looks forward to a very successful year, as we model our theme: *“Excellence Through Preparation”*. (This article was originally written to appear in the CWD Newsletter)

## SUSLA PRESENTS AT NATIONAL DIGITAL E-LEARNING CONFERENCE

Frederick Jackson, Coordinator/Instructor of the SUSLA Criminal Justice Administration Program and Chief James E. Harris, Elected Chief of Police for Jonesboro, LA recently presented at the From Distance to Digital Learning: Shaping the Future Conference, which was held Tuesday, April 10th in Baton Rouge. Their presentation “*Enhancing the E-Learning Infrastructure through the adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) to Deliver High Quality Learning Experiences*” focused on OER and online success for the Criminal Justice students.

Dr. Darlene Williams, eLearning Task Force Chair, Board of Regents stated, “*Events like this conference provide an occasion to bring people together in order to share ideas and learn from each other to ensure our institutions remain at the cutting edge.*”

Additional SUSLA faculty attended the conference to share knowledge and access to resources.



Dr. Robbie Melton, App-ologist

### SUSLA ENGAGE AND THE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE BRING NEW TECHNOLOGY TO CAMPUS

SUSLA Engage and the Academy of Excellence joined forces with the world’s first “App-ologist”, Dr. Robbie Melton to bring a host of new technology to campus. Dr. Melton’s high energy style took the audience by storm along with her amazing display of new technology.

The Jesse N. Stone, Jr. Lecture Hall was filled with excitement and anticipation as Dr. Melton began her dynamic hands-on presentation. Adorned with computerized jewelry, smart shoes and self-cleaning clothes, she mesmerized Dual Enrollment students, faculty, staff and administrators with her technological savviness. She shared with the awestruck audience how technology has evolved and become a driving force in the world.

SUSLA employees in attendance were given the charge to research ways technology can be used in the classroom to enhance teaching pedagogy. It was an exhilarating experience for all who attended and several students left with technology projects.



## SUSLA HOLDS 48th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



The Division of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education hosted the 48th Annual Festival of the Arts on April 18th, 2018 in the Jesse Stone Lecture Hall. The theme was “Empowerment Through the Arts”. Professor June Phillips reviewed the history of the Festival, which originated with Professors Gerald Cotton and Roosevelt Daniel.

Each year since 1969, the Faculty and students have invited special guest artists such as Margaret Walker, Ernest Gaines, Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, and local artists such as Dorsey Sum-

merfield, Hattie Wade, Luther Cox, Ron Hardy, Bobby Wiggins, Judi Ann Mason, and Leadbelly.

This year, the festival featured a special fashion guest. Ms. Latasha Henderson Robinson who is a designer, stylist, and creative director. Her work has been featured nationally on the television show Project Runway where she was a finalist during season 15 of the show. She inspired the crowd with her story and dynamic designs.

From the visual arts category, Dennis Robinson II who is an illustrator and owner of D2artz shared digital design elements and animation creation. Faculty, staff, and students were also encouraged to visit the Drawing I art exhibit of student design work located on the second floor of the administration building.

The event featured a performance of the alma mater by Ms. Sonya Hester and poetic expression by Xavien T. Baily.



The Festival concluded with the presentation of writing competition awards and an inspirational message from Chancellor, Dr. Rodney A. Ellis encouraging students to follow their passions and achieve their dreams wherever their vision might take them.

Dr. Wanda Waller served as chairperson of the Festival, Dr. Joslin Mar-Dai Pickens served as co-chair.



## FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS ENJOY SPRING FEST 2018

Spring Fest 2018 was a week of food, fun, music, outdoor games, and more on the main campus April 16th- 19. Students, Faculty, and Staff came out to enjoy all Spring Fest had to offer. Each day of the week had a unique theme and line up of activities.



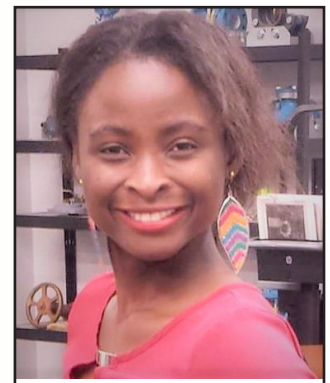
“Mad Monday” kicked off the week with custom airbrushed t-shirts, zorb ball, Italian ice, chicken and waffles, and a local DJ. “Two-Step Tuesday” encouraged everyone to wear their cowboy hats and hit the dance floor to two-step. Participants enjoyed grocery bingo, ate smoked turkey legs and cooled off playing slip and slide kick ball. On “Wile Out Wednesday” students got a chance to dunk their peers in the dunking booth, enjoyed snowballs, fried catfish, and hit the dance floor to beat the heat. The event wrapped up with a crawfish boil on Thursday and concert featuring local artist. Students also enjoyed the mechanical bull, inflatable water slides, rock wall, and trampoline jump. This annual event is presented by the SGA, Office of Student Activities and services each year.

### SUSLA FRESHMAN SELECTED FOR OFC INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (I&E) PROGRAM

Radiat Ibrahim, a freshman engineering major here at SUSLA, has been selected to participate in the OFC Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) Program. Radiat was nominated by Darrin Dixon, Director of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development.

The OFC Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) Program is comprised of 100 of the greatest young minds, who think critically, creatively, and are passionate about solving problems.

Participants will compete against their peers in a 72-hour workshop that will be both challenging and rewarding. Students will be tasked with developing solutions to business, social, or educational problems and then pitching their ideas to a panel of expert judges comprised of entrepreneurs, small business owners, executives, venture capitalists and other investors. Prizes have included an opportunity to attend Apple’s WWDC conference, Leadership Exchange Study Abroad Scholarship, MacBooks, and iPads to name a few.



## SUSLA CONGRATULATE STUDENTS ON SKILLSUSA PARTICIPATION AND WIN



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) sent two students to compete in the SkillsUSA State Competition. This year, the competition was hosted by SOW-ELA and held April 19-20, 2018. Chaelyn Newton, General Studies major and Galleri Jamison, Adult Education student each participated in two competitions.

Jamison competed in Information Technology Services and Job Interview. Newton competed in Job Demonstration (Open) and Job Interview. Job Demonstration contestants demonstrated and explained an entry-level skill used in the occupational area for which they are training or outside of their training program. Newton demonstrated



Inking. Inking is the process in which a picture is outlined and refined before you color it using specific brushes and ink pots or pens. This helps to define the image and makes it easier to color and shade. Inking is commonly used for comic books and art techniques. Newton's career goal is to become a comic book artist, and inking is part of the many steps in making a comic. Newton won 1st place in both categories and will be representing Louisiana at the National competition in Louisville, KY., June 25-29, 2018, for the 54th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC). Both students demonstrated phenomenal skills in their categories.

Don Howard, Director of Career Services/SUSLA SkillsUSA Campus Advisor and Reva Whitaker, Director of Allied Health and Nursing Department Tutorial Lab/Campus Advisor accompanied the students to the competition.

*"Students receive a quality education here at SUSLA and can compete with anyone," said Howard. "Not only does SUSLA receive exposure, but students are exposed to potential scholarships, and employment opportunities for competing and representing SUSLA."* According to Howard, plans are underway to establish a SkillsUSA student chapter at SUSLA.

The SkillsUSA advisory team and students would like to thank Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor of SUSLA and Janice Sneed, Vice-Chancellor for Community and Workforce Development at SUSLA for their support. They would also like to thank Frank Williams and the Southern University at Shreveport Foundation for sponsoring the students to defray the cost of their participation.



CONGRATULATIONS  **Student**  
*of the* **Month**

**DESHAWN COATES**

You may have seen Deshawn Coates out for one of his regular runs on campus and around the neighborhood. He is committed to staying healthy and to his education. Mr. Coates recently won first place during the Walk For Humanity 5K run.

He is a sophomore majoring in Mass Communications and will be graduating this May. He graduated from DeRidder High School in 2016 and moved on campus to the Jaguar Courtyard to begin his education. He is active on campus and plans to transfer to The University of West Florida, where he will be a cadet in the ROTC program and try out for the track team in fall 2018.

After graduation he will be commissioned into the Army as a 2nd lieutenant.



**JAGUAR of the MONTH**

*Dr. Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor recognizes Angelique Feaster-Evans as  
"Jaguar of the Month"*



Angelique Feaster-Evans has been a proud member of the Jaguar Nation for nearly 3 years. She is the driving force behind the Southern University Museum of Art (SUMAS) and has worked diligently to partner with local artisans and the convention and tourism bureau to increase the visibility and utilization of the museum by schools and the public. She is a nominee for the Shreveport PRIDE award to be given out this month and most recently served as the chair for the 50th Anniversary Golden Gala.

Ms. Feaster-Evans brings a wealth of talent and skill in the arts as a performer, as well as, her extensive formal education to her role as Museum Coordinator and also to SUSLA as a whole as a member of Institutional Advancement. She is truly an asset to the SUSLA family and we are proud to honor her hard work as the "Jag of the Month".

# Campus Announcements



Hosted by  
Southern University Shreveport Foundation  
**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**GENTLEMEN'S COOKING CLASSIC**  
**Saturday, June 9, 2018**

Shreveport Convention Center  
385 Cabot St. • 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

For more information and to purchase tickets,  
call, (318) 670-8681

Proceeds benefit the SUSF Scholarship Fund.



# STEM SUMMER CAMP

IMAGINE  
EXPLORE  
DISCOVER!

**DATES:**  
**TIMES:**

**JUNE 4-29, 2018**

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Friday, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**LOCATION:**

**SUSLA CAMPUS** (Rooms TBA)

3050 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Shreveport, LA

Seats are **LIMITED!**

**K-5th Grade**

Cost: **\$300** (per student)  
**\$25** non-refundable registration fee  
**\$40** Field trip fee

Registration fee includes  
cost of liability insurance,  
t-shirt, lunch snacks and  
field trips.

Students are taught by certified teachers who specialize in STEM fields.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** are **AVAILABLE** for those who qualify.

Coordinator: Rufus Jackson - email: [rgjackson@susla.edu](mailto:rgjackson@susla.edu) or [ce@susla.edu](mailto:ce@susla.edu)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
**Friday, May 18, 2018**

All fees **MUST BE** paid by  
**Monday, May 28, 2018**

For more  
information, call -  
**(318) 670-9697**







*The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the Office of the Chancellor  
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Barbara Austin, Coordinator / Editor*

*Units of the Division of Institutional Advancement / University Relations  
Stephanie K. Rogers, Chief Advancement Officer*

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## ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



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The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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