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OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

MEDIA RELEASE

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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT ANNOUNCES ALLEN BUILDING ACQUISITION

The Allen Building, which was constructed circa 1909 has been acquired by Southern University at Shreveport. The Allen Building stands adjacent to SUSLA's downtown Shreveport Metro campus. Dr. Ray L. Belton-Chancellor, Southern University at Shreveport, stated, "The Allen Building is an ideal and intentionally selected venue to accommodate our Allied Health and Nursing Programs due to its strategic location in the heart of the metropolitan area." The Allen Building consists of three floors and a basement that would provide an additional 25,797 square feet of space for the school.

The Allen Building will be the new home for Southern University at Shreveport's Allied Health and School of Nursing Programs, which continue to experience exponential growth. SUSLA has grown by one hundred and fifty-five (155%) percent over the last nine years. The need to expand the University infrastructure was an imperative. The building was owned by West Inn Development, LLC and purchased for \$387,000 by the State of Louisiana Board of Regents along with additional private funding provided by Willis-Knighton. A press conference to make the official acquisition announcement by representatives, including Southern University at Shreveport Chancellor, Dr. Ray L. Belton, Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover, State Senator Lydia Jackson, Downtown Development Authority Director Liz Swaine, Willis-Knighton System President and CEO, James K. Elrod, Galilee Baptist Church Pastor, Dr. E. Edward Jones as well as other dignitaries will happen this Friday at 9:30am in the Southern University Museum on the first floor of the SUSLA Metro campus.

Southern University at Shreveport, an institution within the Southern University System, seeks to provide a quality education for its students, while being committed to the total community. This institution prepares students for careers in technical and occupational fields; awards certificates and associate degrees as well as offerings and programs that are transferable to other colleges and universities. Dedicated to excellence in instruction and community service, this open enrollment institution promotes cultural diversity, provides developmental and continuing education, and seeks partnerships with business and industry.