

RODNEY A. ELLIS, Ed.D.

Dr. Rodney Ellis is the seventh Chancellor of Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA). He has served in that role since April 2016. Since accepting this position, Dr. Ellis has become active in the community. He is an active member of the Shreveport Rotary Club, Committee of 100, Strategic Action Council and the Mayor's Financial Empowerment Taskforce. He is also engaged with the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Shreveport-Bossier City African-American Chamber of Commerce, Bossier Chamber of Commerce, and North Louisiana Economic Partnership.

Prior to his role as Chancellor at SUSLA, Dr. Ellis served as a higher-education consultant with Buckner. Dr. Ellis is also the former Chancellor of Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) in Alexandria, Louisiana. In this role, he worked diligently to inform the community about the benefits of a technical and community college education. He successfully secured nearly \$5 million in federal grant funding, secured \$650,000 in private funding commitments to start new and upgrade existing programs, restructured and rebranded a 7-campus organization, reduced the budget deficit by \$1.2 million, expanded student activities and program offerings, secured \$19 million from the state legislature for a new building, secured \$5.3 in non-state funding for this new building, achieved reaffirmation from the college's accrediting body, increased the public's awareness and image of the college, and developed a new 5-year strategic plan, among other things. As the grandson and stepson of military veterans, Dr. Ellis's commitment to creating a military friendly institution led to the partnership with the Bechtel Corporation, Cheniere Energy and Fort Polk army base to develop a workforce training program for soldiers transitioning out of the military. In this Chancellor role, Dr. Ellis also served briefly at the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) where he focused on special academic and student affairs initiatives to help Louisiana community colleges achieve the goals in "Our Louisiana 2020: Building the Workforce of Tomorrow," LCTCS's six-year strategic plan. LCTCS serves over 175,000 credit and non-credit students, and 36,000 adult basic education learners at 13 community and technical colleges on over 50 campuses.

Prior to coming to Louisiana, Dr. Ellis served as Executive Vice President of Atlanta Technical College in Atlanta, Georgia. Ellis worked at Atlanta Technical College for nearly fourteen years where he also served as vice president of IT, planning and development and director of institutional development. Prior to his service at Atlanta Technical College, Dr. Ellis served as Institutional Effectiveness Specialist at the Technical College System of Georgia and senior research specialist at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation.

Dr. Ellis earned his doctorate in Higher Education Administration, with a specialization in Community and Technical College Leadership, from the University of Georgia; a Master of Science in Judicial Administration from Auburn University at Montgomery; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Alabama.

Dr. Ellis has over twenty years of experience in postsecondary education. He specializes in academic and student affairs policy development and compliance, institutional effectiveness and research, accreditation compliance, resource acquisition and management, public-private partnership development, board development and strategic planning.

In Atlanta and Alexandria, Dr. Ellis was heavily involved in the community. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, Re-Entry Solutions and the Rapides Parish Workforce Investment Board. He has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Alexandria, and was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow. He previously served as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Atlanta, the Atlanta Tech Civitan Club, the Atlanta Airport Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlanta Business League. He was also a member of the Atlanta Media and Film Community Jobs Task Force, the Atlanta Emerald Cities Green Jobs Task Force and the Atlanta Beltline Employment Working Group.