

A photograph of the Southern Union State Community College building. The building features a prominent, large, ribbed dome with a copper-colored finish. Below the dome is a circular section with large windows. The main entrance is a portico supported by white columns, with the words "SOUTHERN UNION" inscribed on the pediment above it. The building has a green metal roof. In the foreground, there are trees with yellow and orange autumn leaves. The sky is blue with some clouds.

SOUTHERN UNION
STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2024-2025
IMPACT REPORT

A large, multi-story brick building with a prominent portico supported by white columns. The words "SOUTHERN UNION" are inscribed on the pediment. In the foreground, four students (three women and one man) are walking across a green lawn. A black lamppost stands near the steps leading up to the building. The sky is overcast.

IMPACT 2024-2025

Southern Union State Community College's 2024–2025 Impact Report celebrates student and community impact across our Wadley, Opelika, and Valley campuses. Featuring great student strides in academic transfer, technical education, and health sciences, along with expanded programs designed to meet the growing needs of our regional workforce, this report highlights the college's positive calendar year impact.

2024-2025 was replete with milestones in access and achievement, including one of our largest ever graduating classes, growth in dual and concurrent enrollment, exceptional licensure and certification results across multiple programs, and a plethora of vibrant fine arts and athletic programs that brought our communities together.

Partnerships were strengthened with businesses, industry, schools, and civic organizations. We invested in new facilities and program expansions and deepened our commitment to community service via Children's Expo, Serve Day, and the 9/11 Mobile Exhibit.

Guided by our mission to provide affordable, accessible, and equitable learning opportunities to meet diverse needs, Southern Union continues to open doors, elevate talent, and power opportunity across East Alabama.

Mission Statement:

Southern Union State Community College, an open admission, public two-year college and member of the Alabama Community College System, provides quality and relevant teaching and learning in academic, technical, and health science programs that are affordable, accessible, equitable, and responsive to the diverse needs of its students, community, business, industry, and government.

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Mr. Ben Jordan

Vice President of Financial & Administrative Services

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Dean of Health Sciences

Ms. Drika Hodge

Dean of Student Affairs

Dr. Linda North

Dean of Academics

Dr. Eric Sewell

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Mr. Donnie Prater

Executive Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Transportation

Ms. Gretchen VanValkenburg

Executive Director of Advancement & Community Relations

Ms. Lakieshia Barnett

Director of Human Resources/SPO

Mr. Jimmy Holmes

Director of Public Safety/Campus Chief of Police

Ms. Alison Osborn

Executive Assistant to the President



Dear Friends and Partners,

Choosing Impact as this year’s theme came naturally. Every day, at each of our three campuses, the impact of Southern Union State Community College is clearly visible. You can see it in our classrooms, on our stages and playing fields, and throughout the communities we serve. Our 2024-2025 Impact Report is designed to show and tell the story of all that makes Southern Union distinctive and unique: the impact that is made when we follow our vision to pair student success with regional progress, preparing people for work and life success while strengthening the places they call home.

We marked this year with several impactful firsts and a great surge of forward momentum. Technical Education and Workforce Development expanded to meet demand. Cosmetology grew to Wadley, and our first Aviation Maintenance cohort graduated as we moved ahead with a new hangar groundbreaking. In Health Sciences, we welcomed our first cohort of Veterinary Technology students. Adult Education celebrated its largest GED class since 2020, underscoring our ongoing commitment to second chances and new beginnings, and we celebrated one of our largest graduating classes to date.

Huge and heartfelt thanks are due to our energetic and engaging faculty and staff for their steadfast dedication to student success; to our industry and civic partners for opening doors and hiring our graduates; to our alumni and donors for believing in the power of a Southern Union education; and to our students for the dedication and determination you bring to campus every day.

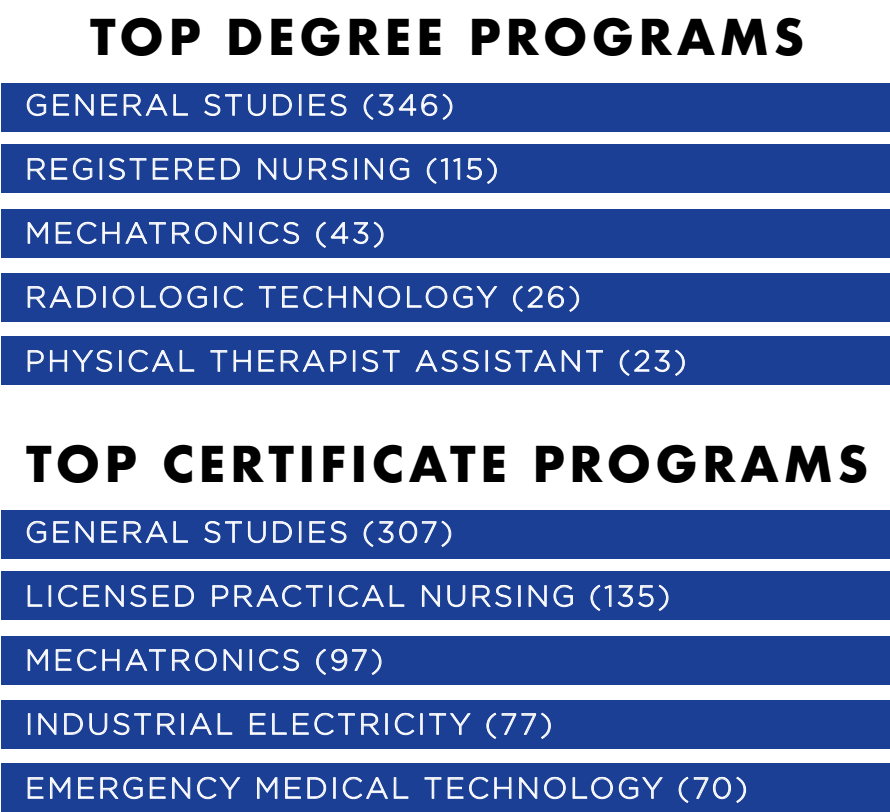
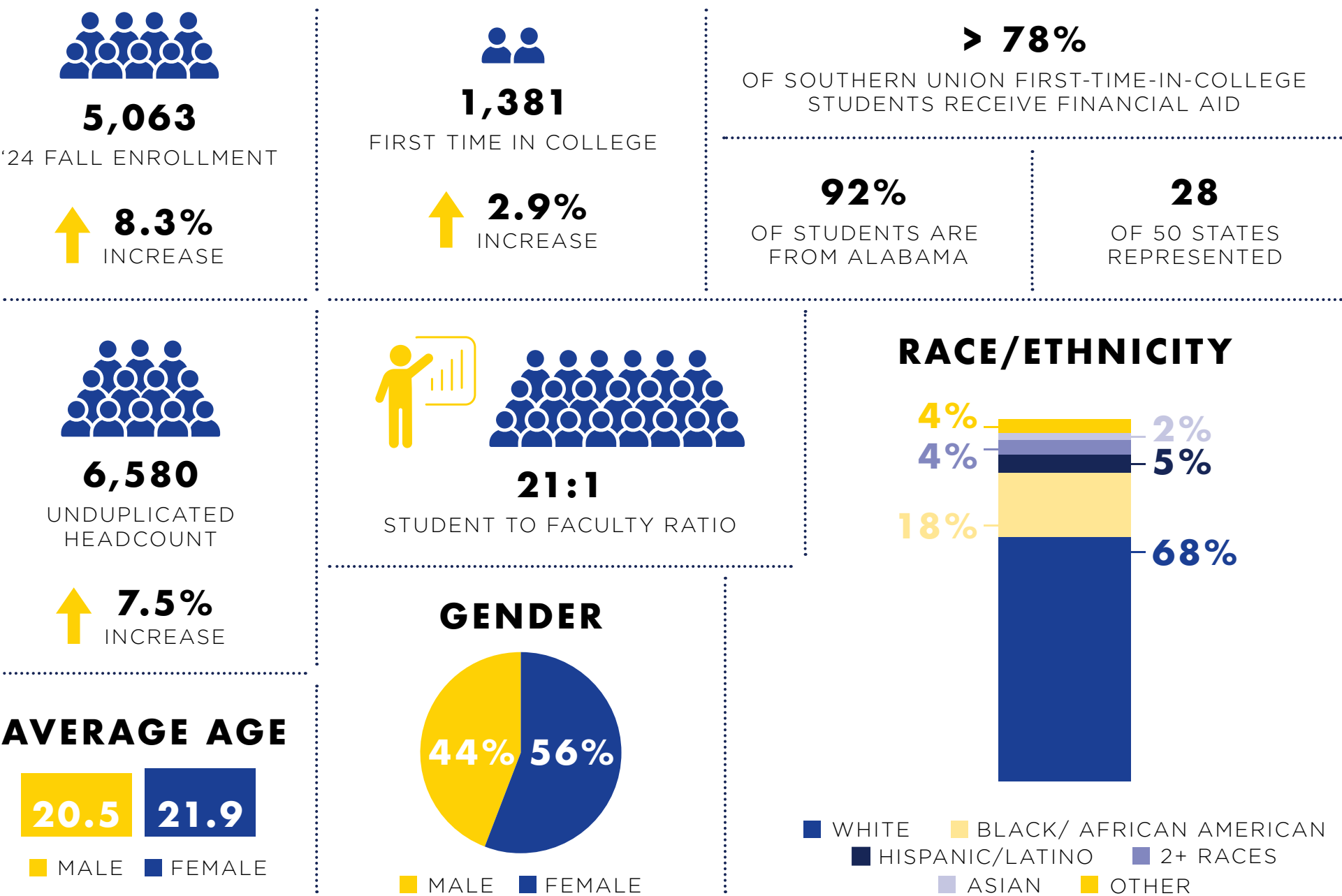
The Impact results featured in these pages reflect our firm belief that when opportunity meets commitment, transformation follows. Together, we are building talent, strengthening families, and growing East Alabama one learner, one program, and one partnership at a time.

With gratitude and Bison pride,

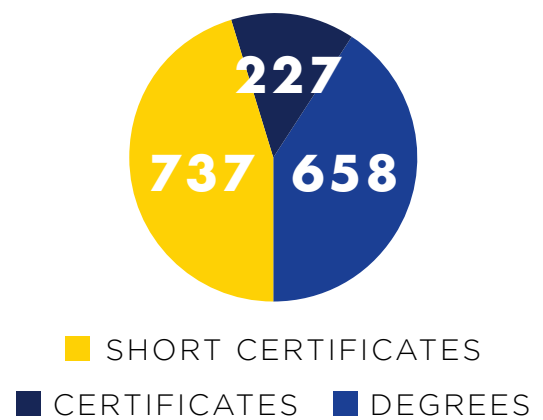
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Shackett". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a dark blue background.

Todd Shackett
President, Southern Union State Community College

IMPACT: ENROLLMENT



AWARDS FOR '23/'24



ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES



IMPACT: EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENT

SUSCC's Thomas Named Alabama Veteran of the Year

Military Friendly® named Rosario Thomas the state of Alabama winner in the Veteran of the Year® program. He serves as the Veterans Specialist for SUSCC.

Alisa Bennett Honored as 2025 Alabama Adult Education Teacher of the Year

A big Bison congratulations to Alisa Bennett for being named the 2025 Alabama Adult Education Teacher of the Year! We are so excited that Alisa has been recognized by the state because now they know what we have known for years: Alisa is an incredible and giving teacher who has impacted and enriched the lives of hundreds of SUSCC students. We are honored to have her in our program and are so proud of her achievements.

2024 Chancellor's Award Winners

Four SUSCC leaders were recognized as Class of 2024 Chancellor's Award honorees at the annual Alabama Community College Association Conference in November. The Chancellor's Award honors leaders from each of the state's 24 community colleges who have made a significant impact on their campus and community. Honorees from SUSCC were Melinda Clanton, Director of Health Sciences Programs, Outstanding Administrator; Ron Sanders, Science Faculty, Outstanding Academic Faculty Member; Dr. Amy Cantrell, Program Director of Wellness and Sport Sciences, Outstanding Technical Faculty; and Angela Jones, Human Resources Coordinator, Outstanding Support Staff.



ROSARIO THOMAS



ALISA BENNETT



MELINDA CLANTON



RON SANDERS



AMY CANTRELL



ANGELA JONES

IMPACT: TECHNICAL EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development Service Impact by the Numbers

The SUSCC Skills for Success program is making quite an impact on workforce development, serving 441 community members since January 2025. We awarded 397 College Career Readiness Initiatives during the '24-'25 school year, helping our local high school students to become college and career-ready! Non-Credit Industry Training has served 319 students since January 2025. In February, Skills for Success welcomed approximately 1,900 eighth graders from Auburn, Opelika, Lee County, and Chambers County schools to our campus for our annual Career Connections event to tour the facilities and learn about our programs in Academics, Health Science, and Technical Education.



New Hangar Groundbreaking Gives Aviation Maintenance Program a Lift

In October 2024, in partnership with Auburn University, SUSCC held a groundbreaking for a new aviation hangar to be used in its aviation maintenance technology program. The partnership between the two institutions was formed to combat the aviation industry's shortage of aviation mechanics. The aviation industry is experiencing shortages in several sectors, including maintenance staff, and the addition of this facility will help produce qualified aircraft maintenance personnel. This partnership and the new hangar facility will have a positive and powerful impact on the aviation workforce.

Southern Union Celebrates First Graduates of Aviation Maintenance Technology Program

SUSCC was proud to recognize the first cohort of graduates from its Aviation Maintenance Technology program during a special convocation held on July 31. Nineteen students completed the two-year program. Graduates were awarded certificates verifying their eligibility to take the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensing exams. "This is an exciting milestone for our students and for the college," said Dan House, Program Director for Aviation Maintenance Technology. "These graduates have put in two years of hard work mastering the skills needed to keep aircraft safe and airworthy. They're now ready to take the final step toward licensure and enter a high-demand industry."



Cosmetology Expands to Wadley

We were excited to announce the expansion of our Cosmetology program to the Wadley Campus beginning Fall 2025. As one of the college's longest-standing and most successful career programs, the Wadley expansion reflects Southern Union's continued commitment to providing accessible, high-quality career training across all campuses. Featuring state-of-the-art equipment, experienced instructors, and a curriculum focused on both foundational and advanced techniques, the program prepares students for licensure and a successful career in the beauty industry.

IMPACT: ACADEMICS

Leadership Institute

Sixteen employees completed the Inaugural Leadership Institute. This institute is designed to cultivate and enhance the leadership skills of our faculty and staff, preparing them for advanced roles within a postsecondary institution.

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment is on the rise at SUSCC, with almost 1700 students enrolled in the program last year. Dual Enrollment allows high school students to earn college credits early, which saves money on tuition and can lead to graduating high school with an associate degree. Students gain a smoother transition to college-level coursework and can explore different career interests while enrolled in dual enrollment courses.

Concurrent Enrollment

SUSCC now has concurrent enrollment agreements in place with nine institutions. For the Fall 2025 semester, more than 260 students are participating in concurrent enrollment with Auburn University, Auburn University at Montgomery, Troy University, and Faulkner University.



Adult Education:

Southern Union State Community College proudly celebrated the achievements of its GED graduates during a recent graduation ceremony, recognizing not only academic accomplishments but also significant strides in workforce readiness. This year, the Adult Education program served over 1,330 students, with 61 earning their GED. Of those, 31 students participated in the formal graduation ceremony.

Beyond high school equivalency, students in the program also took advantage of numerous career training opportunities. In total, students earned 976 workforce credentials in non-credit areas such as OSHA safety training, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification, forklift operation, and digital literacy. Additionally, 141 students earned their WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificates, validating essential workplace skills to employers.

“These numbers are more than statistics—they represent real stories of resilience, perseverance, and transformation,” said Connor Chauveaux, Adult Education Director at SUSCC. “Our graduates are entering college, joining the workforce, and gaining the skills needed to succeed in life and career.”



IMPACT:

HEALTH SCIENCES

HOSA Hosts James Spann

Southern Union's Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) chapter, advised by Melanie Caldwell, hosted James Spann in April. The renowned meteorologist talked with the students about the importance of being weather aware and tips on how they can be better prepared.

Children's Expo

Each year, the Health Sciences Division welcomes first graders from throughout the area to Children's Expo. Designed to teach health and safety habits, Children's Expo also includes a visit to a mock hospital and ambulance to teach children that medical facilities don't have to be scary. And who knows? Maybe some of those visiting first graders will have been so positively impacted by Children's Expo that they one day become SUSCC Health Sciences students!

Wellness and Sport Sciences Hosts Safety Clinic

In June 2025, Southern Union State Community College's Wellness and Sport Sciences Department hosted Protect & Perform: A Professional Development for Athletic Safety, a one-of-a-kind educational event designed to equip coaches and parents with critical tools to ensure the safety and well-being of student-athletes. The conference was held at Southern Union's Opelika Campus. The coach conference sessions covered a comprehensive range of topics, including program preparedness and emergency action plans (EAPs), injury prevention strategies, management of basic musculoskeletal injuries, taping fundamentals, and nutrition. A special parent session focused on empowering parents with essential knowledge on how to advocate for their athletes.



Program Updates

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

December 2024: SUSCC Paramedic graduates had a 100% first-time National Registry pass rate.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN

100% (9/9) pass rate on the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exam. To date, we have certified 236 dual enrollment students as Certified Electrocardiogram Technicians, and enrollment continues to grow each year.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

SUSCC graduates continue to exceed the 85% ultimate Board pass rate threshold set by the program's accrediting agency, CAPTE.

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

SUSCC accepted the first Vet Tech cohort. The college also passed state inspection and achieved permitting to be a veterinary clinic from the Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and is now successfully permitted for on-campus and mobile practice (both small animal and farm animal medicine).

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

The Therapeutic Massage program continues its community outreach, participating in over 18 different community events. Eight out of 11 graduates from the Dec. 2024 massage cohort have tested and successfully passed their licensure and are working in-field.

NURSING

The Fall of 2025 marks the first time SU has had 2-night nursing cohorts. 320 students are enrolled in nursing. Practical Nursing first-time pass rate 100% for the last five years; Associate Degree Nursing first-time 2025 pass rate equals 96%.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Seventeen out of 18 students passed the national certification exam on the first attempt for a 94.4% pass rate. And, students in the SU Surg Tech program exceeded the national average for the Anatomy and Physiology portion of the Health Education Systems (HESI) exam, a standardized test for nursing students, by more than 130 points.





IMPACT: FINE ARTS

Southern Union State Community College's music and dance programs have a rich history of accomplishments that have had a positive and powerful cultural impact both at home and away. Students in the fine arts program perform for standing room only audiences and have the opportunity to perform off campus at local, state, and national venues.

Fine Arts Camp

With more than 70 students participating, this year's Fine Arts Camp was one of the largest SUSCC has hosted. Students had the opportunity to engage in intensive study in music or dance during the two-day camp.

From Brazeal Auditorium to Carnegie Hall

To help our country celebrate Memorial Day 2025, the Southern Union State Community College Music Department once again took its talent from the campus stage to one of the most prestigious venues in the world: Carnegie Hall. This longstanding honor continues to be a rich tradition for Southern Union, whose choir has been invited biennially to perform at Carnegie Hall since 1993. Under the direction of internationally acclaimed composer and conductor John Rutter, the Southern Union choir performed Rutter's Requiem, sharing the stage with ensembles from across the country. "This was such a wonderful opportunity for our students," said Dr. Trey Rayfield, Southern Union's Director of Music. "John Rutter is one of the most celebrated composers of our time, and to perform under his direction on the stage at Carnegie Hall is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience."



IMPACT: STUDENT AFFAIRS

SUSCC celebrated one of the largest graduating classes at its annual spring commencement. 894 students earned degrees and/or credentials, and 320 participated in the graduation ceremony.

Miss Southern Union 2025 Crowned

Anna Grace Tucker of Huntsville was crowned Miss Southern Union 2025 during the college's annual pageant in January. This year, four young women competed for the title of Miss Southern Union. Contestants were judged on private interview, talent, health and fitness, evening wear, and on-stage question response. In addition to each of the judged categories, Miss SU contestants are required to select a community service initiative, choosing a topic in which they are currently involved or about which they feel strongly. Tucker was also named the winner of the talent competition and was the recipient of the Cotney Deas Legacy Scholarship, a \$1,000 cash scholarship given by Jason and Casey Cotney Deas. Meleah Lambert of Roanoke was named first runner-up and was the recipient of a \$150 cash scholarship given by Lindsay Fincher. Also competing in the pageant were Chase Martin and Jillian Gruver of Opelika.

Bison Homecoming Week 2025

Southern Union State Community College celebrated its annual Homecoming in February. The highlighted evening event welcomed alumni and friends to a celebration at the Wadley campus. The annual homecoming game capped off a week's worth of fun and exciting activities that captured the Bison spirit. Jackson Crook and Gracie Dennis were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at the event.

IMPACT: BISON ATHLETICS

With more than 200 student-athletes comprising 12 sports, the SU Bison competes in the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) and is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

Basketball (M/W)	Golf (M/W)
Baseball	Soccer (M/W)
Cheer	Softball
Cross Country (M/W)	Volleyball



SU Softball & SU Men's Basketball Name New Head Coaches



Coach Cobb & Coach Estes

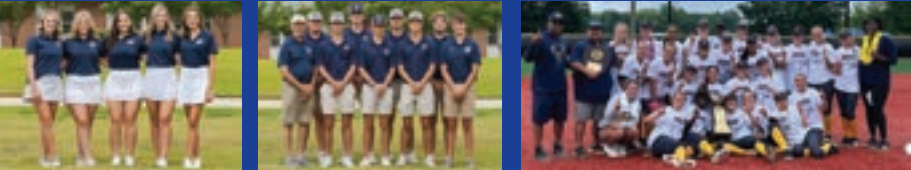
Soccer

Southern Union State Community College's soccer program has made a significant impact in just its second season, as both the men's and women's teams captured their first-ever region championships.



Golf

Congratulations to the Southern Union Men's and Women's Golf Teams for qualifying for the 2025 NJCAA DI Golf National Championship. The men's team finished the year ranked 20th in the nation. The women's national final ranking was 6th.



Softball

The Southern Union Lady Bison softball team earned a coveted spot in the 2025 NJCAA Division I Softball World Series after a commanding run through the Region 22 Division I Tournament. With an impressive 8-2 victory over Coastal South, Southern Union clinched the regional championship and punched its ticket to the national stage in Yuma, Arizona. This postseason triumph capped a stellar 2025 campaign for the team, which posted a 42-13 overall record (.764 winning percentage), including a strong 23-9 mark (.719) in conference play. Southern Union proved formidable across all venues, going 20-3 at home, 13-8 on the road, 9-2 in neutral-site contests, and finishing with an impressive and impactful ranking of #20 in the country.

IMPACT: COMMUNITY

At Southern Union State Community College, "community" truly is our middle name. SUSCC is committed to giving back through service, outreach, and partnerships that make a lasting impact. Throughout the year, the college hosts and supports a wide range of activities that engage students, faculty, staff, and neighbors alike.

From family-friendly events like the Fall Festival – where we welcome community members, Southern Union students, and friends to campus – to meaningful commemorations such as serving as host for the 9/11 Mobile Exhibit on its first visit to Alabama, SUSCC strives to offer our communities experiences that educate, honor, and bring people together. Kids Kollege and other summer camps offer the opportunity to spend time on campus while learning new skills and making new friends.

The college also plays an active role in addressing community needs. Initiatives such as volunteering at the United Way Day of Service or hosting Big House donation drives, making deliveries for the East Alabama Food Bank, supporting literacy as champions of the Great Grown-up Spelling Bee, and working to keep our campuses beautiful through PALS (People Against a Littered State) demonstrate the college's commitment to impactful community service.

This year, to further enhance our service commitment, Serve Day was held as part of our 2025 Homecoming festivities. This event gave SUSCC students and staff the opportunity to help make a difference in their community.

As a hub for leadership and learning, SUSCC regularly welcomes groups like the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and provides opportunities for civic engagement, such as the annual Legislative Luncheon.

Together, these efforts reflect SUSCC's ongoing dedication to strengthening connections, supporting growth, and serving the people who make our communities strong.





IMPACT: ALUMNI

Alumni Spotlight: Mayor Gary Fuller

For Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller, the road to a college degree was anything but traditional. In fact, it took him 38 years to reach the finish line, but when he walked across the Southern Union State Community College stage in 2002, he did so with a sense of deep pride.

Fuller, who grew up in Dadeville, left home after high school for a job as a lab technician at a research and development firm in Pensacola. It didn't take him long to notice something that would change the course of his future.

"I realized when I was working the 3 a.m. shift that the engineers I worked for were home asleep," he recalled with a laugh. "That's when I decided I needed to go to college."

He returned home, was accepted at Southern Union, and began taking classes in Wadley while holding down a part-time job in Alexander City. Ever industrious, Fuller managed to do both until another opportunity presented itself — a job at a local radio station. That "second job" quickly turned into a lifelong career in broadcasting, taking him to Tuscaloosa, Selma, and eventually to Opelika, where he and his wife Laura purchased Kicker FM in 1985.

"I just never went back to school," Fuller admitted.

After selling his radio stations in 1998 and winning a seat on the Opelika City Council, Laura encouraged him to finish what he had started all those years ago. With just two classes left, courses in science and math, he called then Dean of Academics Rod Britt, enrolled, and finally earned his degree from Southern Union.

Two years later, in 2004, Fuller was elected mayor of Opelika, a role he has held for 21 years. As he looks toward retirement at the end of this term, he reflects on his time in office with gratitude.

"It has been a joy serving our city," he said. "I'm a salesman at heart, and I feel I've had success in selling our community to employers, attracting good-paying jobs for our people."

Under his leadership, Opelika has seen remarkable growth: 5,700 new jobs, \$2.6 billion in capital investment, and more than 5,000 new homes in recent years. Fuller also takes pride in the recreational amenities added to the city.

"It's important to have things for young families to do," he said.

Retirement doesn't mean slowing down for Fuller. He plans to stay engaged in the community, with a special focus on early childhood education.

"It's important to give our kids a leg up, a chance for success, and a pathway to be productive citizens," he said.

When asked about his time at Southern Union, Fuller speaks with heartfelt appreciation.

"I have great pride in being a member of the SU family," he said. "Southern Union started as a means to give rural students a chance. Today, it has grown and is so much more, but it remains a starting point for so many. It has such fundamental value. It has made and continues to make a difference in people's lives and is critical in meeting the needs of the community. My degree from SUSCC hangs on my wall with pride."

IMPACT: FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Continuing to make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of Southern Union Community College students, FY 2024/2025 scholarships totaling \$184,810.76 were awarded to 98 students. The breakout is as follows: 50 Dual Enrollment, 48 24/25 awards, and two additional students received emergency funds. The importance of the Foundation's work is reflected in the words of scholarship recipient Natiley Crews:

Receiving the Freshman Foundation Scholarship at Southern Union means more to me than words can express. It's not just financial support; it is a reminder that someone believes in my potential. I'm deeply thankful for this opportunity, and I carry it with pride, hope, and a strong determination to make the most of every moment ahead."



FOUNDATION BOARD

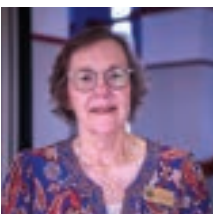
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SU Foundation Celebrates Leaders



The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies excellence through outstanding career achievements, dedicated service to others, and strong advocacy for higher education. Additionally, they must have distinguished themselves through professional accomplishments, community engagement, and sustained support of Southern Union’s mission and programs.

Mayor Gary Fuller’s exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the City of Opelika and its citizens reflect the core values of this award. His public service record, dedication to community development, and steadfast support of education initiatives have made a profound impact on the region.

In addition to the alumni recognition, the Southern Union Foundation is proud to introduce a new honor: the Outstanding Community Partner Award, which acknowledges local businesses and organizations that have shown exceptional commitment to the success of SUSCC students, faculty, and programs. The 2025 recipient of this inaugural award is Glynn Smith Chevrolet GMC. Glynn Smith has demonstrated a consistent and impactful partnership with Southern Union by mentoring students, offering internships, participating in advisory boards and career fairs, and providing generous financial and in-kind support. Their investment in the college’s mission has directly enhanced opportunities for students and strengthened the workforce pipeline in East Alabama.

Both awards were presented at the Foundation’s annual gala, “Blue Jeans and Bling” in April 2025 at The Farm at Rocky Top.

The Southern Union Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the educational and service programs of Southern Union State Community College. Through fundraising, strategic partnerships, and innovative initiatives, the Foundation expands access to higher education and fosters excellence across all areas of the college.



City of Opelika Commits \$3 Million Gift to Southern Union State Community College

In 2025, SUSCC was proud to accept and announce a bountiful \$3 million gift from the City of Opelika. This generous gift will aid in furthering the college’s educational mission and will also serve to impact and enhance resources for both our students and our community.

SUSCC president Todd Shackett expressed the college’s gratitude for the city’s continued support. “Opelika’s commitment to our institution will have a transformative impact on our campus and our ability to serve our students and the wider region.”

Southern Union is a major contributor to the region’s economy. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the college added \$33.5 million to the income of its service area and supported more than 649 jobs. Southern Union is deeply embedded in the economic and civic vitality of Opelika.

Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller stated, “Southern Union has an outstanding relationship with the city; we value their partnership and the powerful impact the college makes when it comes to attracting business and industry to our area.”

SUSCC’s long-term impact plans include the renovation of existing science and technology labs as well as construction of new classroom buildings and a residence hall on the Opelika campus.



BUDGET			
	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	
State Allocation	\$23.2 Million	\$25.1 Million	
Tuition and Fees	\$20.6 Million	\$21.9 Million	
Miscellaneous	\$0.2 Million	\$0.2 Million	
Auxiliary	\$1.0 Million	\$1.1 Million	
Unrestricted Revenues	\$45.0 Million	\$48.3 Million	
Payroll	\$26.5 Million	\$27.8 Million	
Supplies & Expense	\$13.6 Million	\$14.4 Million	
Student Fee Transfers	\$2.1 Million	\$3.2 Million	
Bond Payment	\$2.7 Million	\$2.6 Million	
Unrestricted Expenses	\$44.9 Million	\$48.0 Million	

2024 - 2025

Revenues

Expenses

2025 - 2026

Revenues

Expenses

IMPACT: THE SOUTHERN UNION STORY

As the second-oldest two-year college in Alabama, Southern Union State Community College has compiled a rich and impactful history. Originally chartered by the Southern Christian Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, SUSCC was planned as a feeder school for Elon College in North Carolina. In 1922, 51 students stepped into a single building in Wadley, Alabama, that was then known as Bethlehem College, and the dream of a college to serve students in east Alabama was realized.

Southern Union remained church-related until 1964, operating as Piedmont Junior College, Southern Union College, and The Southern Union College. On October 1, 1964, the college was the first to be deeded to the state of Alabama to become part of the newly created two-year college system. The name of the college became Southern Union State Junior College, and it achieved accreditation in 1970 from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In response to requests from business and industry, Southern Union expanded its reach to an even wider area in the late 1960s and early 1970s, offering higher education opportunities in Lee and Chambers counties by holding classes at local high schools. The college continued its commitment to the citizens of the area with the construction of campuses in the cities of Opelika and Valley. In 1974, the Valley Campus was completed. In 1982, the college purchased land in Opelika and offered a full range of course offerings at its Opelika Campus. On August 12, 1993, the college merged with the local technical college, expanding its technical education offerings, and became Southern Union State Community College.

SUSCC serves residents of an eight-county area of East and Central Alabama as well as neighboring Georgia counties. A three-faceted educational emphasis is on academic programs for transferability, technical programs for specialized career competencies, and health sciences programs for specialized training in the health field.

23

Proud Member of

