



**SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**
AND AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

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October 20, 2026

Caddo Parish Commission
505 Travis Street, Suite 110
Shreveport, LA 71101

To the Residents and Leaders of Caddo Parish,

On behalf of the Southern University Athletics Department, I am writing to offer our full endorsement for the proposed Caddo Parish Indoor Sports Complex. As an institution deeply invested in the growth, development, and long-term success of student-athletes across Louisiana, we view this state-of-the-art facility as a truly transformative opportunity for Northwest Louisiana and the surrounding region.

As Caddo parish voters review the \$60 million bond proposal on the upcoming November 3rd ballot, it is essential to emphasize the “transformative athletic and community impact” of the proposed project. The blueprint for a 170,000-square-foot indoor facility featuring 10 flexible basketball, 20 volleyball courts and the functionality to host a multitude of other sporting events—is strategically engineered to align the growing demands of modern amateur and collegiate sports tourism.

Southern University Athletics strongly supports this project for several key reasons:

1. **Elevated Sports Tourism & Recruitment:** Positioned strategically along the vital I-20 corridor, this complex will make Caddo Parish a premier destination for regional and national youth tournaments. Enhancing the sports infrastructure in northwest Louisiana creates a robust pipeline for local talent to thrive, directly benefiting collegiate athletic scouting and recruitment.
2. **Community Wellness and Youth Mentorship:** Beyond hosting elite competitions, this facility will act as a safe, accessible environment for community recreation, camps, and athletic clinics. Providing youth with high-quality athletic venues promotes healthy lifestyles, teamwork, and critical mentorship opportunities that extend far beyond the court.
3. **Regional Collaboration:** Southern University has long maintained a proud, active presence in northwest Louisiana through our campus at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA). A facility of this caliber opens the door for future collaborative efforts, community engagement initiatives, and sports-related events that connect Jaguar Nation directly with Caddo Parish families.

Most importantly, parish leaders have structured this milestone project to leverage existing funding streams without raising taxes for local citizens. This makes the complex a highly responsible, high-return investment in the region's quality of life and economic landscape.

We applaud the Caddo Parish Commission, its administration, and local civic advocates for their forward-thinking leadership in bringing this initiative to fruition. Southern University Athletics stands proudly supports the Caddo Parish Indoor Sports Complex.

Go Jags!

Sincerely,

Roman P. Banks

Roman Banks, Director of Athletics
Southern University and A&M College