

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

A Choice to Excel in Leadership

Choosing to excel is important to freshman Bryan Gendron, who as a Holy Cross High School student was on the baseball, football, and quiz bowl teams and was active in the Key Club. As an involved and excellent student, he was courted by a number of colleges. But he turned down all offers, including two baseball scholarships, to accept a Southeastern Scholar scholarship and participate in the university's exclusive ExCel program.

ExCel provides scholarships to 20 freshmen, selected from high school leaders nominated by their schools. The program gives these new college students a chance to further hone their leadership skills. They attend a leadership retreat, weekly leadership development classes, and assist with a variety of campus activities. ExCel students are involved from day one.

"Bryan is one of the rare ones participating in ExCel," said Jackie Dale Thomas, director of Leadership Development and Student Activities. "He did not accept an ExCel scholarship, opting instead for the Southeastern Scholar scholarship, but he still chose to participate on his own and meet all the program requirements."

"Southeastern is a place where my full potential will shine as a student," said Bryan, a social studies education major whose goal is to combine teaching and coaching baseball. "It is the best choice and most important decision I have ever made in my life...from the moment I stepped on to the campus I couldn't see myself anywhere else."



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Choosing the Southeastern Family

Jovan Tassin, from Vacherie, La., was an active part of her high school as well as class valedictorian. Upon graduation, Jovan was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship, and also was chosen by Southeastern to be an ExCel Scholarship recipient. However, Southeastern was not Jovan's first choice.

"My first choice was University of Louisiana at Lafayette," she said. But after attending Senior Day, where she found Southeastern to be "welcoming, warm and fun," Jovan quickly changed that choice.

"Everyone looked as though they wanted to be there with you," Jovan said. "It felt comfortable to spend my next four years here with people that were going to treat me like I was going to be part of a big, loving family instead of just another number."

Once on campus, Jovan, an accounting major, quickly "plugged into" the Southeastern community. In just her first semester, she is already a member of the Lady Cubs, Gamma Beta Phi, and the Campus Activities Board.

"Southeastern is a school like no other," she said. "It has many unique, positive aspects that makes your college life something you will never forget or want to forget. I am happy that I chose Southeastern because it is the perfect place for me. I would invite any high school student to join our family."

