Meeting Notes – Apr. 23, 2024

The LaFayette Rotary Club met for its weekly meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Rotarian Mac Tucker was responsible for the program and invited Dr. Todd Shackett, president of Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC), to be the speaker. Dr. Shackett gave an updated progress report on SUSCC.

Dr. Shackett discussed enrollment management and recruitment, comparing statistics from the fall of 2021-22 to the fall of 2023-24. Enrollment increased by 11.8%, from 4,182 to 4,674. There was also a 60% increase in enrollment across academic, health science and technical programs. The academic increase was primarily due to the Path to the Plains and dual enrollment programs. In the health science area, the increases were a result of the physical therapy and evening RN programs. In the technical area, the increases were due to growth in the aviation, mechatronics, electrical tech and evening cosmetology programs.

In the area of student life, SUSCC added men's and women's soccer and men and women's cross country on the Opelika campus. The overall student experience was enhanced by an upgraded gymnasium and additional community/student activities. Finally, Dr. Shackett discussed upcoming projects. In 2024, the following projects were or will be initiated: academic building renovation, health science building renovation, Valley campus renovation, and a new aviation hangar. These new projects will require $23+ million in capital.

Diane Sherriff