



125 Years of Providing Access  
and Enhancing Opportunities

### CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

**Dr. Adell Brown, Jr.**

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**Presented to:**

**Board of Supervisors**

**Southern University and A & M College System**

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*"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"*

## Southern University Ag Center Graduates Ag Leadership Class V

Nineteen participants from Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas were honored during a graduation ceremony on Friday, Sept. 18 for completing their two-year course of study in the Southern University Ag Center's Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute.



Left, Dr. Joe Leonard keynote speaker. Right, graduates of Class V Leadership Institute

The graduation ceremony marked the completion of the Institute's 5<sup>th</sup> class in its 10-year history.

United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Dr. Joe Leonard served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

Leonard praised the SU Ag Center's administrators and Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, director of the Institute, for sharing the program with not only the citizens of Louisiana; but the Southern region of the country.

"This is the best part of my job," said Leonard, "meeting you all."

Leonard went on to thank the participants for the time they invested and encouraged them to continue to learn.

"We see you and honor the accomplishments that you have made. We are looking forward to greater accomplishments," said Leonard.

He concluded his speech by sharing the final words spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN. After being told that one of the members of the "The Soul Stirrers" singing group was downstairs in the hotel.

Dr. King said, "Tomorrow, at the next event, play (the song) 'Precious Lord, Take My Hand' and play it real pretty for me." King was shot and murdered in the next instance.

"I bring that up because his truth marches on in you all.

Some 45 years later you have to feel and believe that truth marches on. And I could be wrong or I could be right, but whatever endeavor you do, you will have to take the Lord's hand."

Dr. L. Washington Lyons, Executive Administrator of the Association of Executive Administrators presided over the program. SU Ag Center interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Jr., provided a welcome and opening remarks and Vice Chancellor for Extension Dr. Gina E. Eubanks provided the program's closing remarks.

The ceremony was also attended by Kevin Norton, Director of Louisiana's USDA National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Craig McCain, Director of USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Louisiana.

The ceremony was featured on the weekly television show, "This Week in Louisiana Agriculture." The video is also available on [YouTube](#).

For more information about the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532 or visit <http://www.suagcenter.com/small-farmers>.

## Youth National Science Day Helps Students Explore the Science of Distracted

The SU Ag Center hosted 4-H National Youth Science Day (4-H NYSD) event on October 7. Youth in East Baton Rouge Parish joined hundreds of thousands of their peers across the world in leading the eighth annual 4-H National Youth Science Day experiment, which combined cars, calculators and cell phones to show how physics principles influence a pressing problem among U.S. teens. This year's experiment is titled 'Motion Commotion.'



Top left, Dr. Brown welcomes youth; Top right, Dr. Eubanks experiences distracted driving; Bottom, students conduct motion experiment

The event attracted 105 participants to Southern University Ag Center, where Dr. Adell Brown Jr., Interim Chancellor, Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension, faculty and staff brought greetings to the guests. Following the welcome was a number of relevant speakers including students.

Dr. Troy Williams, Dept. of Chemistry and Physics, Southeastern Louisiana University revealed to the participants that there is nothing hard about science. Mandy Amoson, AT&T Client Solutions Executive shared the fatal consequences of texting while driving with participants.

Over 87 students from Southern University Laboratory and Park Ridge Academic Magnet Schools participated in the event. Students conducted the two-part 'Motion Commotion' experiment from 9:30 a.m. – noon at A. O. Williams Hall. They used every day materials – including a toy car, modeling clay, ruler, calculator and a cell phone – to explore physics in the real-world.

In the first phase of the experiment, youth constructed a simulated runway to analyze the speed, momentum and kinetic energy of a car in motion, and explored the science behind the car's

collisions. In the second phase, they led an experiment that uses the same physics principles to demonstrate the consequences of distracted driving. This included the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office's driving simulator which gave youth first-hand experience on the dangers of driving while texting or impaired.

Lexlee's Kids team conducted a hands-on demonstration of the end result of distracted driving. The demonstration captured this year's experiment, 'Motion Commotion.' It combined a speeding car collision and a distracted driving demonstration in a simulated activity that investigated the physical and human factors of motion.

"It is important for teens to learn basic concepts related to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and how the subjects can be related to driving," said Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Project and Science Day Event Coordinator at the SU Ag Center.

"As inexperienced drivers, learning about the importance of eliminating distractions on the highway could save their lives or someone else's. We must raise awareness and the National Youth Science Day is a great step forward to link youth with fun, educational opportunities," added Wilkerson-Franklin.

"I participated in the 4-H National Youth Science Day four years ago with the SU Ag Center and had a great time learning about how to clean up waste and spills, which was directly related to the BP oil spill here in Louisiana," said Torianna Franklin. "The experiments are really cool! I can't wait to try out 'Motion Commotion' this year."

Media coverage of the event included NBC 33/FOX 44, WAFB News Channel 9, and the October 8 Metro section of the Baton Rouge *Advocate*.

## SU, LSU Receive Grant Award of \$1.25m to Reduce Obesity in Louisiana

The LSU AgCenter has been awarded a two-year, \$1.25 million grant that will fund research and outreach projects aimed at reducing obesity and chronic diseases in three rural Louisiana parishes – Madison, St. Helena and Tensas.

The grant is from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Partner institutions working with the AgCenter include the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

“This collaborative grant from the CDC will serve as a pilot in three parishes to promote healthier communities through coalitions,” said LSU Vice President for Agriculture Bill Richardson. “The expected changes will improve physical activity and nutrition, reduce obesity, and prevent and control diabetes, heart disease and stroke among residents in the targeted parishes.”

The LSU AgCenter joins seven other land-grant universities that have received CDC grants to leverage their extension efforts to help address health problems in rural communities. Universities were eligible for the grant if they are located in states with counties that have a 40 percent or greater adult obesity rate.

The project, tentatively named Healthy ABCs, will work to improve access to nutritious foods and recreation opportunities and instill healthy behaviors using a community-driven approach. The

three parishes being targeted have some of Louisiana's highest rates of obesity and poverty, said Denise Holston-West, the principal investigator for this grant and a registered dietitian with the LSU AgCenter.

“We want this to be driven by people in the local community,” Holston-West said. “It's important for them to have a say so we can understand their needs and challenges and help address them.”

The Southern Ag Center will help establish community and school gardens and cooking camps in the three parishes.

“We are excited to collaborate with such outstanding institutions as we work diligently to decrease the incidence of obesity and obesity-related illnesses to ensure that our families and communities are healthy,” said Adell Brown, interim chancellor of the Southern University Ag Center.

The state Department of Health and Hospitals will also be part of the project through its Well-Ahead Louisiana program, which encourages people to eat better, exercise more and cut tobacco use.

The full article is available at [LSU AgCenter receives \\$1.25 million grant for project to improve rural health](#). For further details, contact Olivia McClure at 225-578-3262 or [omclure@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:omclure@agcenter.lsu.edu)

## Research Scientist wins USDA National Innovation Award

Dr. C. Reuben Walker, Chair of Agricultural Sciences and Urban Forestry recently won an award in recognition of innovation from USDA/ National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). President Ray Belton was among the first to extend his congratulations to Walker.



Dr. Walker

fertilizer). The USDA has recognized their sustainability efforts with a prestigious award.

He will travel to DC in late October to receive the USDA's "Partnership Award for Innovative Programs/Projects" on behalf of the Bayou Recyclers team.

"We entered the NIFA Partnership Award for Innovative Programs and Projects category. We won. Southern University Baton Rouge land mass won. It is a win-win for SUBR and SU Ag Center," said Walker.

Dr. Walker worked conscientiously for years with Bayou Recyclers on Aquaculture Waste (AW) and Burnt Corn Gluten Meal (BCGM) to earn this award. The research is a valuable way to turn these waste or trash materials into treasures (feed and

Walker, who has one patent under his belt, is developing and filing a second patent on "Craw-Jag," an electrical drying apparatus for aquaculture waste - crawfish, crab, and shrimp.

"Agriculture is a national treasure, and a great pillar and foundation that we should build upon."

He attributes the award and patent to encouragement by SU Ag Center Vice Chancellor for Research Emeritus Dr. Kirkland E. Mellad. "There would be no patent if it was not for Dr. Mellad." Congratulations, Dr. Walker!

## SU Ag Center Receives Over \$500,000 in Funding from USDA/NIFA

The US Dept. of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has awarded \$550,000 to two faculty members in support of research, teaching and outreach initiatives at the SU Ag Center.

**Fatemeh Malekian, Ph.D.** has been awarded \$300,000 in funding for "University Freshmen Moving toward Becoming Ambassadors for



Healthy Communities and Future Generations," from FY 2015-2018. Obesity and related conditions are critical health threats to families and children across the country. Freshmen, due to stress related to the change in environment and lack of supervision, are more likely to gain significant amount of weight during their first year of college. The goal of this project is to determine the effect, on college freshman, of consumption of whey



protein (WP) and resistant starch (RS) health/breakfast bars on body weight.

**Kasundra Cyrus**, Ed.D, received a three-year, \$250,000 grant for “Strengthening Family and Consumer Sciences Curriculum in Family and Child Development.” The SU Ag Center’s Family and Human Development program is instrumental in providing the critical experiences that will strengthen the professional preparation of



**Dr. Cyrus**

undergraduate students in family and child development.

The overarching goal is to provide childcare providers with professional development and child development students with practicum experiences through a family resource facility that will offer educational support to families.

## SU Ag Center among Walmart Grant Recipients to Teach Youth Healthy Living

An article about the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives (the satellite campus of the SU Ag Center) receiving a grant from the Walmart Foundation to teach healthy living practices to youth through its Ambassadors for Healthy Living Program appeared in the “Business Briefs” section of The Advocate Newspaper on Sept. 13. This year,

the foundation donated \$2 million nationally to the program to expand its reach from 15 states to 21, reaching 75,000 at-risk youth and their families with interactive education about nutrition and food security challenges. To read the full article, please follow this [link](#) to the *Advocate*.

## Malekian Participates in International Conference of Functional Foods

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, Professor of Food Science, attended the 18th International Conference of Functional Foods held September 15-17 at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. Malekian presented the results of her USDA/NIFA Capacity Building Grant funded project on September 15 under the category of functional foods and obesity. Her presentation was titled “The effect of Whey Protein and Resistant Starch on Body Weight.” On September 16th, she chaired a session entitled “Functional Foods and Diabetes.”

The conference sessions included functional foods in relation to obesity, neurological disorders,

chronic diseases, diabetes, among others, and a

panel discussion titled “Safety of the Bioactive Compounds at Efficacious Level.” More than 40 countries were represented in the conference, which ended with award and certificate presentations.



**Dr. Malekian**

Following the conference, Dr. Fatemeh Malekian and other SU Ag Center researchers had a manuscript published in the August 2015, Vol 5, No 8 Journal of Functional Foods. The article titled “THE EFFECTS OF WHEY PROTEIN AND RESISTANT STARCH ON BODY WEIGHT” can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

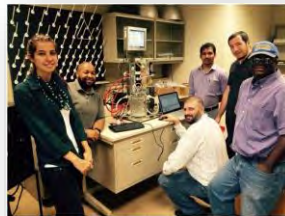
## SU Ag Center Demos First Solid State Equipment for Wood Waste in Louisiana

On September 23, Urban Forestry researchers operated the first Solid State Simultaneous Saccharification and Fermentation (SSF-Labfor 5 BioEtOH) of lignocellulosic urban forest wood waste in Louisiana. Additionally, graduate experiential training was conducted to enhance the knowledge of students and other researchers in Biotechnology, Bioenergy and Climate Change areas.

According to Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Urban Forestry Program Leader and Graduate Director, Enzymatic hydrolysis and fermentation can now be combined in one system (SSF) – by combining the proven technology of a microbial bioreactor with innovative developments in the drive and stirrer system. This means ideal mixing is

guaranteed even when the dry substance content is very high. During anaerobic fermentation, the bioreactor provides the optimum conditions for the culture and comprehensive control of the bioprocess.

Doctoral students, S.P. Davis, Phraubrandi Magee, Uday Kiran Bhuma, Raymond Sumo, and Abdullah Tekin are experimenting with the multipurpose bioreactor.



**Doctoral students observe equipment demonstration**

The research team consists of SU Ag Center Urban Forestry researchers and graduate students led by Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Dr. Zhu Hua Ning, and LSU collaborator Dr. Dorin Boldor.

## SU Ag Center & SHAPE Begin the First Phase of Art in Public Places Initiative

The Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center and the St. Helena Advocacy for Parish Enrichment (SHAPE) are working together to promote the Town of Greensburg's Art in Public Places Initiative.

The partnership was developed after St. Helena College and Career Academy (SHCCA) students Javier Smith, Shy'Janae Hookfin and former student Gerald Holmes, entered the Art in Public Places Contest earlier this year. As a result of their participation, all students were invited by Mr. Reginald Douglas, the Principal at SHCCA, to paint murals throughout their new school.

The first phase began on September 10<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to continue throughout the school year under the leadership of Nicolette Gordon, Assistant Area Agent for SUAREC and Jo'el Givens, SHCCA Gifted & Talented Art Teacher.

“We're the Hawks, I would like to see a hawk breaking through and soaring out of the clouds,” said Douglas.

That's exactly the concept Shy'Janae had in mind as she and Javier worked collectively on a design that would ultimately leave their legacy behind.



**Youth practice art on fabric material**

Once the design was drawn on the wall with the help of Gordon and Givens, many students immediately wanted to chip in. Gerald Holmes

even returned back to his Alma Mater to add the finishing touches to, “The Hawk.”

## The BOLD Project wraps up training with a Ceremony and Reception

The Southern University Ag Center’s project entitled Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD) held its annual completion ceremony and reception on September 26 in A.O. Williams Hall.



**BOLD completers pose with Center admin, faculty, & staff**

The ceremony was hosted by SU Ag Center Extension Assistant Dana D. Isaac, and the Vice Chancellor for Extension Gina E. Eubanks, Ph.D., provided a welcome to the guests and participants.

The center’s interim Chancellor Adell Brown, Ph.D., served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

Dr. Brown provided insight to leaders and stressed the importance of grassroots leadership. “Get the position because you want to do the work,” said Brown.

Former BOLD participants Pastor Janice G. Carter and Shevella C. Powell also attended the ceremony. They each spoke of their past experiences in the BOLD project, the technology skills they gained, and how important it is to remember the people who work behind the scenes who are responsible for

getting the work done and actually hold up and carry the programs. Cater and Powell both echoed the sentiment that leadership is not about YOU! It’s about the work.

2014-2015 BOLD participants who completed the 11 month leadership program were: Christopher

Chappell from East Baton Rouge and Tangipahoa Parishes, Angell Jordan from Lafayette and Acadia Parishes, Karen Marchand from East Baton Rouge Parish, Marlin Ford from East Baton Rouge and Bossier Parishes, Darryl Robertson from Baton Rouge Parish, and JaLeisha and Leisha Cousin from St. Tammany Parish.

BOLD is a grassroots statewide leadership program designed to provide leadership skills needed to improve rural and under-served communities. It is an evaluative and technical assistance project designed to develop teams of emerging leaders who work together across racial, class and community boundaries in innovative ways to promote community and economic development.

The next BOLD leadership course began on October 10 at the SU Ag Center.



## SU Ag Center Holds Livestock Informational Meeting in Concordia Parish

On September 10, Travis Eastern, conducted an informational meeting in Concordia Parish with Four Rivers Livestock Association. The meeting was held at the Ferriday Elderly Housing Activity Center. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and to conduct an initial survey of cow/calf operations to assess the production practices in place and the existing knowledge of farmers concerning the control of diseases. Additional meetings have been scheduled across the state with small farm operators. Results from these surveys will be used to establish guidelines for BMPs that need to be implemented on small farms. The major goal of this on-going project is to integrate research and extension in order to provide accurate, state-of-the-art, timely, and cost-effective diagnostic services, consultation, disease surveillance and outreach to limited resource cattle farmers.

The aim is for the SU Ag Center to understand the science of production limiting diseases in small scale cattle operations and to acquire knowledge that will be used to improve the position of small



Informational meeting attendees

and limited resource farmers in Louisiana and other states in the southern region.

The achievement of this goal and aim, will safeguard animal health, the food supply, and public health, and contribute significantly

to Southern University and the Agricultural Research & Extension Center through research, scholarly activities and outreach. Survey participants received hats that read “Beef Up Your Management.”

Renita Marshall, DVM is the Project Director. Travis Eastern, MS is the Research Assistant hired to work on this project, and he conducted this meeting.

A similar meeting was also conducted by Travis Eastern in Franklin Parish with Tri-Parish Community Farmers Association for survey completion.

## SU Ag Center Welcomes Students from Piney Woods School

Nearly 40 students from the Piney Woods School in Mississippi toured facilities at the SU Ag Center on October 2, while exploring college majors including agriculture. The students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, were welcomed by faculty, staff in the various research and Extension programs. SU students in the Urban Forestry Program set up an informational booth alongside the scientists, while students in the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization assisted with the displays to share information with the high school students.

The SUBR Campus Recruiter Robert Rene was there to share information about the academic program offerings with the prospective students.



Piney Woods team  
tours model farm

Allison Johnson, USDA/1890 Program Liaison at Southern University was on hand to explain the benefits of the National Scholars Program to the guests.

When one of the visiting students was asked how he got to Piney Woods from Ethiopia he answered, "My uncle who lives here in the States told me about it, and I applied and got admitted."

The visit concluded in a tour of the facilities including the model garden.

The visit was coordinated by Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin, Agriculture Specialist.

## SU Participates in Louisiana State University MANRRS Chapter Fall Kickoff

The Southern University Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Chapter attended the Louisiana State University MANRRS Chapter Fall Kickoff Event on September 10, at the LSU Student Union. MANRRS is a national society that welcomes membership of students of all racial and ethnic group participation in agricultural and related science careers. The overall objective of the Society is to promote and implement initiatives which foster inclusion and advancement of members of ethnic/cultural groups underrepresented in

agricultural and natural resource sciences and related fields in all phases of career preparation and participation in these areas.



SU MANRRS Chapter at LSU

"The SU MANRRS Chapter is off to a great start and they are looking forward to new and exciting things this year," said Renita W.

Marshall, Associate Professor, Animal Science, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

## SU Ag Center Gardening Program Featured in the Pointe Coupee Banner

An article highlighting the collaboration of Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives with the Housing Authority of New Roads to develop a youth community garden was featured in the Pointe Coupee Banner on September 10. The gardening program participants, volunteers and supporters gathered on August 4<sup>th</sup> to showcase their work in

the community. The garden was blooming with assorted vegetables and herbs. William Augustine, Research Associate, oversees the garden program.

The SCRI located in Opelousas operates as a satellite entity of the Southern University Ag Center serving a 10-parish region. Article attached.

## Hammond Junior High Launches Fall School Garden Project

On September 15, Ahmad R. Robertson, Extension Agent in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes demonstrated best management practices of fall and winter gardens to students at Hammond Junior High School, which is incorporating school gardening into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. The youth gained knowledge of plant spacing, location, transplanting, irrigation, plant depth, days to harvest, variety selection, and seed germination. Mrs. Robin Price, Science teacher at the school is doing an outstanding job in preparing future agriculture leaders with Supervised Agriculture Experience Programs. Mrs. Price is the coordinator of the Lowes Toolbox for Education projects, which consist of a reading garden, vegetable garden, and school landscape project.

The fall garden project consists of tasty vegetables: collards, broccoli, Pak choi, cabbage, Swiss chard, romaine and butter crunch lettuce. After planning and preparation, the excitement builds to the day when everyone can really “dig in” and get their hands dirty. Watching the garden design magically



Hands-on experience

come to life sparks curiosity and amazement to the 8th grade science students. Although planting involves a lot of hard work, youth are usually too captivated by the activity to notice.

Raised beds have numerous benefits. They look neat, support healthy plant growth, and help keep young students on path. The loose soil encourages roots to grow strong and deep, and moisture

soaks in easily. In areas with cool, wet winter weather, soil on raised beds drain and warm quickly, allowing gardens to be started earlier.

School gardens are an integral part of farm to school programs and offer a multitude of educational opportunities. They are wonderful instructional tools and engaging spaces in which to explore the entire curriculum. Whether they are container gardens or school farms, fruit trees or herb gardens, school gardens serve as hands-on, interdisciplinary classrooms for students of all ages.

## Tangipahoa ProStart Program Students Engage in Gardening

On September 15, Ahmad R. Robertson demonstrated best management practices of a fall and winter garden to Tangipahoa ProStart Program students at Hammond Magnet High School. The seniors gained on site training of plant spacing, location, transplanting, irrigation, plant depth, days to harvest, variety selection, and seed germination. Mrs. Angelina Drago is doing an outstanding job in preparing future high school students for college and career opportunities in the restaurant and hospitality industry. Mrs. Drago, head of the program, incorporates the garden's vegetables, herbs, fruit, and flowers into her cooking and nutrition classes.

The fall garden project consists of tasty vegetables; collards: broccoli, Pak choi, cabbage, Swiss chard, butter crunch and Bibb lettuce, arugula, and cool season herbs. School gardens are the ultimate outdoor classroom! They provide authentic, real-world, inquiry based learning that is hands-on, educational, and fun. Students in the year-long culinary arts program do more than just use the produce in their classes. They also get their hands dirty, working in the garden in shifts. They weed, plant seeds, haul compost, and harvest produce.



**Students transplanting seedlings in garden**

The program is a two-year restaurant management and culinary arts program for high school juniors and seniors. Industry-based, comprehensive curriculum written by the National

Restaurant Association Education Foundation. The topics covered include cost control, marketing, sustainability, food safety, culinary arts and much more. Mrs. Sunday Hanson of Louisiana Master Gardener and Cheryl Garrison are phenomenal garden mentors at Tangi Pro Start Academy.

Opportunities of Prostart, explore all facets of the food service industry, while developing and practicing skills in a commercial kitchen. The students earn culinary school credit while in high school through dual enrollment. Also they can earn articulated credits at many participating postsecondary schools across the nation. For more information, visit [www.nraef.org/prostart](http://www.nraef.org/prostart), [www.lra.org](http://www.lra.org). Tangipahoa Prostart instructor can be reached at [Angelina.drago@tangischools.org](mailto:Angelina.drago@tangischools.org)

## St. Helena Sheriff's Office Enjoys Winter Beautification

On October 5, the St. Helena Sheriff's Office engaged in a winter beautification, which involved removing warm season annuals, preparing flower beds for winter, and beautifying the parish facility. To achieve this, St. Helena & Tangipahoa SU and LSU Ag Centers, Ahmad R. Robertson, and Nicolette Gordon; Louisiana Master Gardner's Carol Kliff, Roger Olsen, Quincy Walker, St. Helena College & Career Horticulture Academy Mr. Terry Guy S.H.C.H. Ag Teacher and St. Helena Parish Trustees architected a beautiful flower garden.

The team planted annuals, and perennials, vegetables and pruned Louisiana Super Plants for beautification. The St. Helena College & Career Academy Junior Master Gardeners, and 4-H Club performed maintenance on the flower bed.



Beautification team

This was a learning moment for students and trustees about planning, preparing soil, spacing, depth, and mulching. The St. Helena Sheriff's Office and staff now boasts a colorful landscape project led by the LSU and SU Ag Centers. The aim is to increase the awareness of the importance of agriculture among students who will become adults in

support of wise agricultural policies. The project also encourages students and parents to become more active in the school's social and academic life while creating a sense of pride and unity amongst local citizens.

The project was led by Ahmad R. Robertson, Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent in St. Helena & Tangipahoa Parishes and Sheriff Nathaniel Williams.

## SU, LSU Leaders Explore Causes of Barriers to Entering LSU Vet. School

On October 8, Dr. Joel Baines, dean of LSU School of Veterinary Medicine met with leaders of the Southern University College of Agriculture and Ag Center for initial talks that could open doors for Southern students into the LSU Vet School. Prior to the meeting, data revealed that students from SU, interested in veterinary medicine, have a higher chance of enrolling at Tuskegee University than LSU, with additional burden of out of state fees. This initial meeting was to explore the causes of barriers to Southern students entering the LSU



Team discusses solutions

Vet School in Baton Rouge. The dialogue yielded results of potential opportunities for both entities to collaborate in ensuring that SU students are adequately prepared, socially and academically, to be admitted into the program and retained through graduation.

"I believe this is the beginning of a working relationship between our Dean and SU. Although admission process for new applicants for the 2016-2017 has closed, we will be working with SU to



ensure that when students apply for 2017–2018 academic year, they will be successful in getting admitted to LSU,” said Dr. Daniel.

The meeting was held at the SU Ag Center, and attendees included: Dean Baines, Annie Daniel, Director of Veterinary Instructional Design and Outcomes Assessment, LSU Vet School; Adell

Brown, Interim Chancellor, SU Ag Center; Doze Butler, Associate Dean, College of Sciences and Agriculture; C. Rueben Walker, Program Leader, Agricultural Sciences; Gary Simon, DVM/Professor, Renita Marshall, DVM/Associate Professor, Sebhatu Gebrelul, Professor, Antonio Harris, Professor and Curtis Chisley, Professor, Animal Science.

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Dr. Renita Marshall** attended a seminar entitled “Cultural Competency, Diversity and Inclusivity: An Imperative for Success in our Multicultural Society” at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine on September 11. The seminar was presented by Dr. Patti Rose, the author of several books, including, Cultural Competency for Health Administration and Public Health, published by Jones and Bartlett Learning in 2011 and Cultural Competency for the Health Professions published in 2012 by the same publisher. Dr. Rose's passion is to travel the globe, understand the world, and share her knowledge of various cultures, history, globalism and diversity with all through lectures, teaching and speaking engagements. Dr. Marshall received a certificate of attendance along with 3.5 hours of DVM continuing education hours at the conclusion of the seminar.



**Drs. Marshall, left, and Rose at LSU workshop**

**Dr. James F. Henson**, Research Scientist conducted a workshop to teach research scientists the usefulness of Blocking – Examples from SU Experiments with Plants and People on October 1. The workshop used relevant examples from the SU Ag Center in Urban Forestry mulching experiment as well as human health and nutrition to illustrate practical solutions in experimental designs.



**Dr. Henson presents**

**Carolyn E. Robinson**, Area Extension Agent in East/West Carroll Parishes hosted a Strike Force Planning meeting in collaboration with USDA and the Southern Rural Development Center of Mississippi State University assisted by Thomas Legiandenyi, Assistant Area County Agent for East/West Carroll

Parishes and Latonya Owens, on September 16. Invited guests in attendance from the Center for Rural and Small Business Development at the SU Ag Center were Mr. Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist and Mrs. Gloria London, Director.



**Strike Force Participants**

The purpose of the meeting was to help lay the groundwork for an economic development plan for East Carroll Parish. Over 60 participants, including a class of over 15 youth from Irena King High School class attended. Other attendees included community leaders, the Mayor, political leaders, chamber of commerce, agricultural, religious, educational, small businesses and others. Inputs included discussion of housing, transportation, school gardening, youth development, parenting and small business development. The next planning meeting will be conducted in two months.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Fatemeh Malekian**, et al published a manuscript titled “THE EFFECTS OF WHEY PROTEIN AND RESISTANT STARCH ON BODY WEIGHT” in the Journal of Functional Foods, August 2015, Vol 5, No 8. The article” is available at <http://ffhdj.com/index.php/ffhd/article/view/210>.

**Drs. Christopher Chappell and Andra Johnson**, Urban Forestry Program, recently published an article entitled “Influence of pH and Bulk Density on Carbon Dioxide Efflux in Three Urban Wetland Types” in the Professional Agricultural Workers Journal. Volume 3, Number 1 (2015).

The aim of the study was to understand soil carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) efflux of three different urban wetlands and how pH and bulk density relate to soil CO<sub>2</sub> efflux of each wetland. The three wetlands

were bottomland, upland, and shrub/scrub. The study was conducted over a twenty-week period. The findings show that the bottomland wetland efflux was significantly higher than the shrub/scrub and upland wetland.

The study contributes to the body of knowledge on how soil CO<sub>2</sub> efflux in urban wetlands can help to mitigate the effects of climate change. The [article](#) is available on the Tuskegee website.

## SU Ag Center Welcomes new Employee

**Ellen C. McKnight** has joined the SU Ag Center family as an Extension Associate - Nutrition, Evaluation, and Publication. Her duties and responsibilities include program evaluation and publication for the Families First: Nutrition Education and Wellness System (FFNEWS).



**Ms. McKnight**

Ms. McKnight, a native of Baton Rouge, who resumed duties on October 1, is operating from the

Cooperative Extension State Office in Baton Rouge. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics with a minor in Business Administration, as well as a candidate for MPA in Public Health Administration from Southern University A& M College.

She serves in the capacity of Health Educator/ Nutritionist at the SU Ag Center. Ms. McKnight was previously employed by Capitol City Family Health Care Center in Baton Rouge.

# *Upcoming Events*

**November 13:** Deadline to place order for the Thanksgiving Annual Sweet Potato Sale hosted by the Minority in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS) student organization. A 40-pound box of sweet potatoes sells for \$20. Pick-ups will occur Thursday, November 19 from noon to 2 p.m. at the SU Ag Center – A.O. Williams Hall back parking lot.

For more information or details contact, Mrs. Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2242.

**December 17:** Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center's 1<sup>st</sup> Scholarship Gala themed, "Sowing Seeds for Future 1890 Scholars: Growing the Next Generation." The gala will be held at L'Auberge Baton Rouge at 8 p.m. for more information, contact Alice Dyson at 225-771-2143.



# AGRICU

## Housing Authority of Community Garden program a success

Mrs. Gail Joseph Hurst took time out of her overloaded schedule to serve as the Housing Authority commissioner's monitor for Clean Fun -Y.E.S.S. The program is designed to give self help, and self awareness skills to youth who have been left out of the mainstream. She also suggested that they be included in the newly formed COMMUNITY GARDEN. Her suggestion bordered on the biblical theme of training "up a child" to keep hunger away from the door. To teach a child how to plant is to show him how to provide for self. Mrs. Hurst said, she was excited to see how much the children remembered about Community Garden from their school program.

On August 4, 2015, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the community gathered with Mr. William Augustine of Southern University AgCenter, Baton Rouge Campus and Ms. Paula Rush, Executive Director of Housing Authority of New Roads to pay tribute to the future gardeners of Housing Authority of New Roads, La. They came to give accolades to the efforts of all who helped with the Community Garden and to say thank you to volunteers, young and elderly, who assisted in this training project. Mrs. Hurst, who is project director for the Board of Commissioners for the Community Garden Project wore her glowing smile and welcomed all who came. There were twenty six (26) plus children including the seven from Clean Fun Summer Program who volunteered for the garden work, and least twelve (12) parents, including Teresa Fields who supplied water for the garden and Barbara

Brashier, LSU Agcenter and William Augustine, Southern University Agcenter, Housing Authority staff, especially Mr. Platt, Maloid, Porche, Boulingny, Ms. Paula, and Mrs. Gail Joseph Hurst, you are an

asset to our community, A friend to children and parents, an awesome achiever. May God continue to use all of you in the future to open eyes that cannot see and give a light to others along the way.



Mr. William Augustine of Southern University Agcenter address residents and children involved in garden project.





Authority office and Clean Fun also came as observers and supporters. Of special note was the presence of Mrs. Suzzette Williams, who represented the Summer Feeding Program Director, Dr. Alice Crenshaw, Kenner, Louisiana. Gifts and refreshments were brought by Clean Fun for those who showed themselves faithful as helpers of community gardening.

After a short prayer of thanksgiving for the success of the Housing Authority Community Garden, summer of fun and the feeding program, Mrs. Hurst introduced Mrs. Paula Rush, Executive Director, Housing Authority of New Roads staff, the volunteers and children to Mr. William Augustine our speaker and representative from Southern University Agcenter who oversee our Housing Authority of New Roads, Community Garden Project.

"These are our most precious assets". She said. With words of appreciation, she presented Teresa Fields, Barbara Johnson Belinda Rigeley and Catherine Wilson with a gift. She then turned to the garden kids and announced them to be "marvelous planters who produced beautiful green plants with fruits from much effort, fertilizer and water". "And we thank God for the "SUNSHINE" Said Ms. Hurst.

The future gardeners were presented with gifts of appreciation, gift cards and school supplies. They Are Ja'maya Johnson; Ja'naya Johnson; De'michael Coleman, Mikal Davis, Jacobey Marshall, Jalaya Zeno, Kalaiya Zeno And Ms. Belinda Rigeley.

We must remember to say thank you. So we salute the following supporters of Housing Authority of New Roads Community Garden Project: Wal-Mart, Cow Town, Fontaine Lumber, Dollar General Store, Ms. Bernadine Noil Manager, Pointe Coupee Feed Mill, Mile



Housing Authority of New Roads Community Garden



Tomatoes from Housing Authority of New Roads