

SEEDS *of* SUCCESS

A Monthly Newsletter of the Southern University Ag Center, College of Ag, and Chancellor's Report

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ASU

Thank you for your years of service to the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences!

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences recognizes the members of our faculty and staff who are celebrating their 10, 20, and 30-year anniversaries of employment. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.



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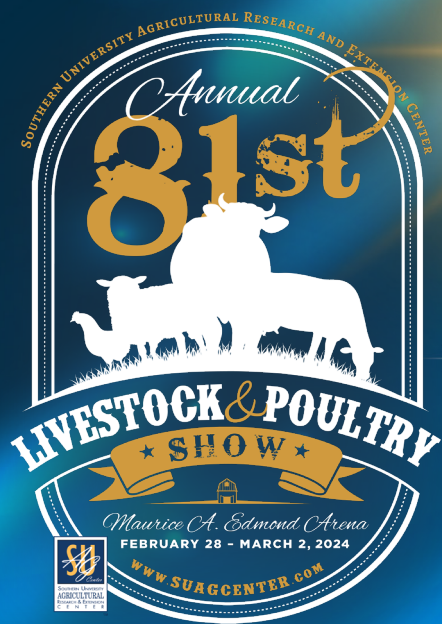
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THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 81ST ANNUAL

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW



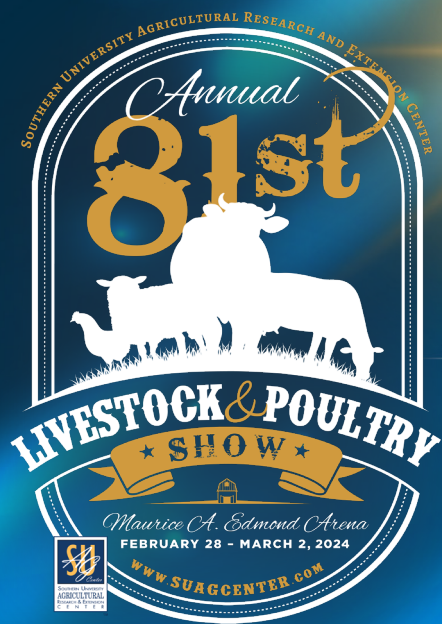
SU Ag Center Celebrates Its 81st Annual Livestock and Poultry Show

For 81 years, the Southern University Ag Center has continued the tradition of providing an opportunity for youth, throughout Louisiana, to gain valuable knowledge and skills at its Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show. The show was held Feb. 29 – March 2, 2024, at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena.

This year, nearly 100 youth from across Louisiana showed around 130 animals during the event which provides an opportunity for them to showcase their hard work in raising and caring for various breeds of cattle, hogs, sheep, lamb, goats, and poultry. Winners received premiums, banners, ribbons, rosettes, and trophy belt buckles.

In addition to the annual show, the Ag Center held several events which included a Boots and Bling Affair, an Ag Showcase, a Livestock Give Day, and an Educational Experience Expo for youth all leading up to the annual livestock show.





THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 81ST ANNUAL

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW



SU AG CENTER'S 81ST ANNUAL LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW PRESENTS

CHRIS ARDOIN

BOOTS & BLING AFFAIR 2024

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 • 7PM-12AM
F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER (MINI DOME)
 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS • BATON ROUGE, LA 70813

\$30 TICKET ARENA SEATING	\$40 TICKET GENERAL ADMISSION FLOOR SEATING	\$250 PER TABLE SEATS 8
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PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT: foundation.sus.edu/bootsandbling
 TO PURCHASE TANGIBLE TICKETS, CONTACT:
 Meguna Johnson at meguna_johnson@suagcenter.com OR Robert Easley at robert_easley@suagcenter.com

WESTERN ATTIRE
 *** ENTERTAINMENT & HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES PROVIDED ***

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences is an entity of the Southern University System. It is created in accordance with the U.S. Cooperative Extension Act of 1933, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences are provided to people of all ages regardless of race, national origin, or disability.

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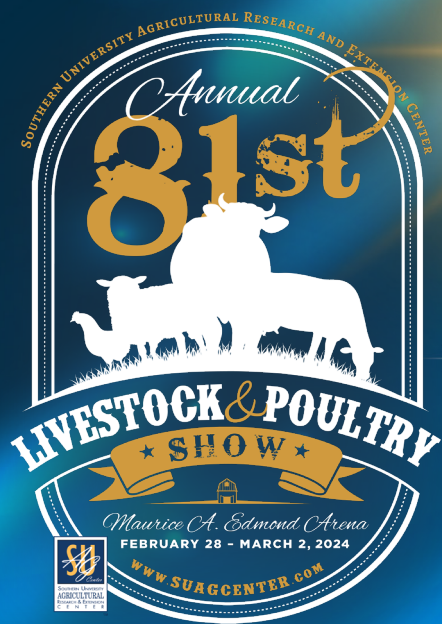
BOOTS & BLING AFFAIR

The 81st Annual Livestock Show celebration kicked off with the Boots and Bling Affair on February 17 at the F. G. Clark Activity Center. The attire for the event was western. Guests were provided with entertainment by zydeco accordionist and singer, Chris Ardoin. Funds raised from the Boots and Bling Affair will be used to provide scholarship awards and necessary equipment to youth exhibitors participating in the Ag Center's Annual Livestock and Poultry Show.

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Individuals who have made an impact on the Livestock and Poultry Show were honored during the Livestock Appreciation Luncheon on February 25 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena Multi-Purpose Building. This year's honorees were Oliver Jackson, Justin Wilson, Ricky L. Brumfield, Gene Martin, Jr., and Otis Wilson.





THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 81ST ANNUAL

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW



AG SHOWCASE



The College of Ag Showcase was held on February 27 on the lawn of Pinkie Thrift Hall on the Southern University campus. Students, faculty, and staff from the Southern University College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences discussed career opportunities in the field of agriculture during the event.



LIVESTOCK GIVE DAY

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AG CENTER'S
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW
GIVE DAY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

"We are just under 50 donors away from hitting our goal! Join us as we strive to secure 81 donors at \$81 or more to celebrate the 81st Annual Youth Livestock and Poultry Show. ALL proceeds will provide funding for Youth Exhibitors and Livestock Pathway Scholarship recipients."

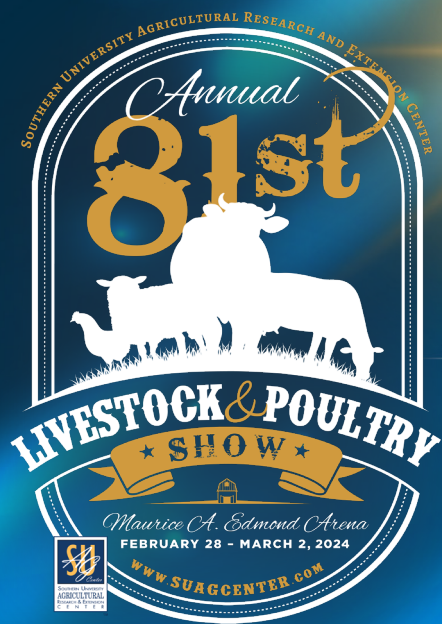
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH SINCE 1943
 SOUTHERN FOUNDATION

PLANT YOUR SEED
TODAY,
 GROW PROMISE FOR
TOMORROW!



The second Livestock Give Day was also held on February 27. Eighty-one individuals were asked to give \$81 in honor of the Livestock Show's 81st anniversary. Over \$10,000 was raised during this event.

DONATE AT: <https://foundation.su.edu/geauxlivestock/>



THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 81ST ANNUAL

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY SHOW



THE EXPEDIENTIAL EXPERIENCE EXPO

Approximately 1,100 students from East Baton Rouge Parish Schools and surrounding areas participated in the Expediential Experience Expo on February 28. The students visited more than 20 interactive exhibits that included ATV Safety, a mechanical bull, a petting zoo, cow milking, face painting, tractor and farm safety, information on community policing, hands-on gardening, drones, hydroponics, entomology, and agricultural displays.

The event was held at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena Multi-Purpose Building.



NIGHT WITH THE STARS

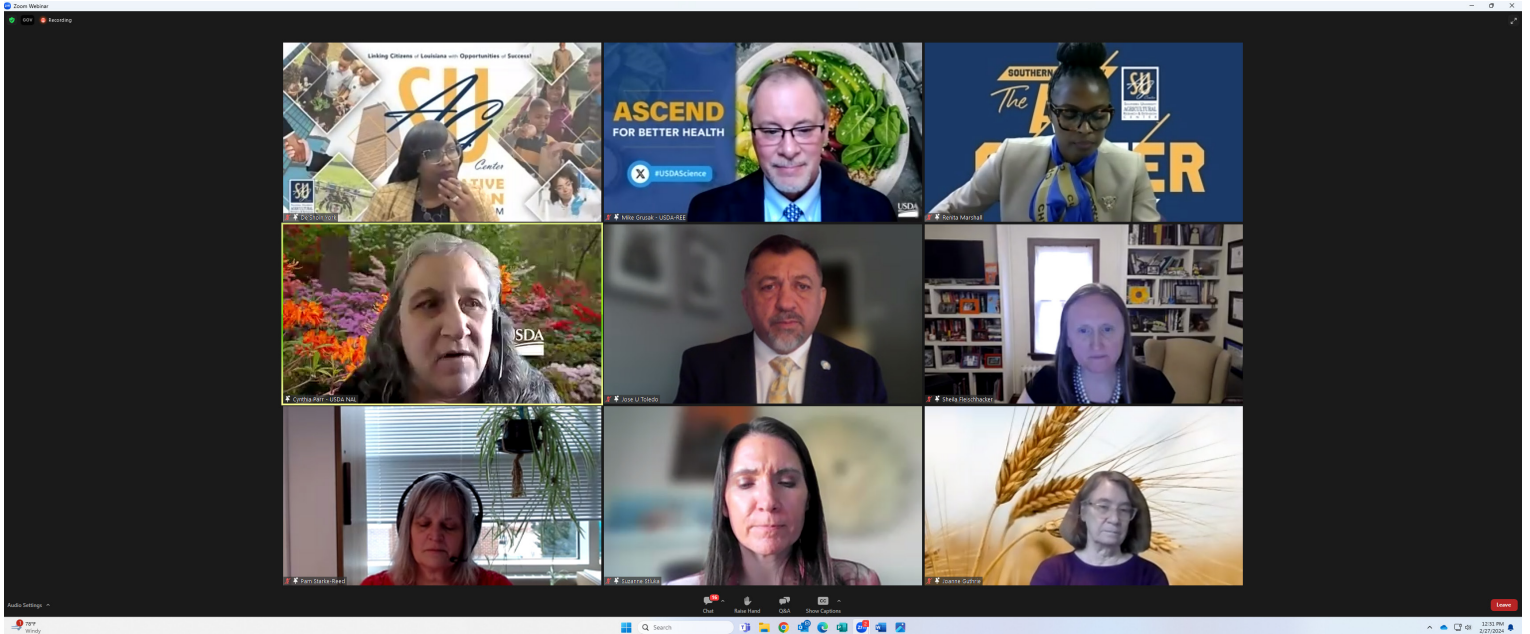
The 81st Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show officially began on February 29 and continued until March 2 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena. The Friday Night with the Stars Old Fashion Decorating Contest is held each year to allow participants to have fun with their animals one last time before the Junior Auction on Saturday morning.

AWARDS PROGRAM & JUNIOR AUCTION

An awards program was held on March 2 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena with the Junior Auction immediately following. Congratulations to all the winners!



SU Ag Center Vice Chancellors Discuss the USDA's ASCEND for Better Health Nutrition Hub at Southern University



Southern University Ag Center Vice Chancellors, De'Shoin York, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach, Renita W. Marshall, DVM, Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Support, Associate Dean, and Jose U. Toledo, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research served as panelists during a webinar on the USDA's ASCEND for Better Health Nutrition Hub on February 27, 2024.

The webinar discussion centered around the new Agricultural Science Center for Excellence for Nutrition and Diet (ASCEND) for Better Health Nutrition Hub at Southern University.

Sheila Fleischhacker, Ph.D., JD, RDN, National Science Liaison – Food Safety and Nutrition and NIFA Nutrition Security Team Co-Chair served as the moderator for the webinar. Mike Grusak, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Precision Nutrition, USDA Research, Economics, and Education Mission Area; Suzanne Stluka, Ph.D., RDN, LN, Deputy Director, USDA NIFA Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition; Pamela Starke-Reed, Deputy Administrator, USDA Agricultural Research Service; Joanne Guthrie, Ph.D., Research Nutritionist, USDA Economic Research Service; and Cynthia Parr, Technical Information Specialist, USDA National Agricultural Library served as fellow panelists on the webinar.

The Southern University Ag Center has been awarded as the first ASCEND Pilot Nutrition Hub, which will work to define a new architecture to better integrate and coordinate the collective work of Research, Extension, and Education agencies to improve food and nutrition security and reduce the burden of diet-related chronic diseases, especially in underserved, at-risk communities.

Learn more about the ASCEND Pilot Nutrition Hub by visiting, <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/ascend-nutrition-hub>.



SU Ag Center Holds Elementary, Middle, and High School Black History Quiz Bowl Championships

The Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences hold Elementary, Middle and High School Black History Quiz Bowl Championship Competitions at 9 a.m. on Feb. 26, Feb. 27, and Feb. 28, respectively, in T.T. Allain Hall on Southern University's campus.

The Black History Quiz Bowl is an exciting educational event that stimulates students on their knowledge of Black History. The competition covers a variety of topics, including current events, politics, history, sports, and entertainment.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning teams received medals and every participant received a book written by or about some aspect of the Black experience.

Southern University Ag Center Professor Emeritus, Owusu Bandele, Ph.D., is the creator and organizer of the Black History Quiz Bowl.



TEACHING

AgBusiness Students United Provides Scholarships to Fellow Students

The AgBusiness Students United student organization held a scholarship recognition ceremony for the recipients of its scholarship program on Feb. 15 in Pinkie Thrift Hall.

Each student received a \$250 scholarship from the student organization. A total of \$1,000 in scholarship funds for the Spring 2024 semester. The following students received scholarships:

- **Jakari Brown**, Sophomore Ag Science Pre-Veterinary Medicine major
- **Morgan Edwards**, Sophomore Agricultural Business major
- **Amahri Jackson**, Senior Agricultural Business major
- **Jeffrey Floyd**, Freshman Agricultural Economics major



The scholarship program began in Fall 2023 by Christian Jacobs, a senior Agricultural Business major and president/founder of the organization and Sterling Brown.

To apply, the students had to have at least a 2.5 g.p.a., and had to be either an Agricultural Business major, Agricultural Economics Major, or a member of the AgBusiness Students United organization.

Jacobs donated \$500 of his own money to start the scholarship program. He also received support from some of his family members and donates from members of the community to fund the scholarship.

The goal of the organization is to increase student access to marketable work experiences, career, and educational opportunities.

EXTENSION



COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

Cooperative Extension Program Receives Grant to Fund Its JAGratory: Youth S.T.E.A.M Mobile Lab

The Southern University Ag Center's Cooperative Extension Program received funding via a competitive USDA/NIFA Capacity Building Grant to develop a Youth S.T.E.A.M. Mobile Lab entitled the JAGratory.

The JAGratory Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.) lab will provide youth with developmental programming and introduce youth to the vast technological world of agriculture. In addition to S.T.E.A.M programming, the interactive mobile lab and classroom will also provide broadband access to those youth in rural underserved communities who are unable to access Wi-Fi or internet services. Moreover, because of the mobility of the S.T.E.A.M lab, current staff can travel with the lab to provide expanded programming without the limitation of requiring a brick-and-mortar structure, thus enhancing access, and exposing youth to more experiential learning activities. Features of the JAGratory S.T.E.A.M Mobile Lab will include living laboratories, hydroponic systems, aquaponic systems, computer stations with ag tech and greenspace software for digital ag design training, immersive education via virtual and augmented reality programs for precision agriculture, exterior video screens/projectors for class-like presentations, and an external drone hub to introduce new technologies in agriculture.

Dr. De'Shoin A. York, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach will serve as the Program Director for the mobile lab. Co-directors are Dr. Raquel Ayles, Dr. Charity Schaffer, Dr. Ajayi Anwansedo, and William Augustine.

EXTENSION

SU
Center

SU Ag Center to Hold Its Spring Garden Workshop on April 25, 2024



Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's

REGISTER AT:

<https://bit.ly/48U1AKC>

Earth Day
Herb Day!

SPRING GARDEN WORKSHOP

"Down to Earth Herbs for Everyday Use"

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 • 9AM-1PM

MAURICE EDMOND ARENA MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING
14600 Scenic Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70807

For More Information, Contact:

Terra Polite: michael_polite@suagcenter.com

Mila Berhane: milagro_berhane@suagcenter.com

Zanetta Augustine: zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com

TOPICS

- Herb Propagation
- Herbs for IPM
- Feeding Herbs to Livestock
- Traditional Uses & More!

The Southern University Ag Center will hold its Annual Spring Garden Workshop at 9 a.m. on April 25 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena Multi-Purpose Building, located at 14600 Scenic Hwy. in Baton Rouge, La.

This year's theme is "Earth Day, Herb Day: Down to Earth Herbs for Everyday Use."

Topics covered during the workshop will include:

- Herb Propagation
- Herbs for IPM
- Feeding Herbs to Livestock
- Traditional Uses of Herbs and more.

The workshop is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register visit, <https://bit.ly/48U1AKC>.

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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences is an entity of the Southern University System, Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean, Dennis J. Shields, System President, Myron K. Lawson, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences are provided to people of all ages regardless of race, national origin, or disability.

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RESEARCH



SU Ag Center Delegation Visits CEGFSD Projects in Kenya

“Creating Opportunities for Louisiana Citizens Abroad”

The Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense (CEGFSD) is one of six centers of excellence at 1890 universities identified in the U.S. Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill. The Center is supported with funds from the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Through a competitive process, USDA/NIFA awarded CEGFSD grants to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), the host institution, that implements the CEGFSD in collaboration with all nineteen 1890 universities. The CEGFSD builds on the work previously initiated by the Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development (CEIED), which was one of three Anniversary Centers of Excellence established by the USDA/1890 Taskforce to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the signing of the Second Morrill Act of 1890.

The Center mainly focuses on projects designed to enhance the supply of a globally educated workforce and addresses essential needs that would enhance global food security and defense in the cluster regions. The CEGFSD project in the East/Southern Africa Cluster focuses on four



RESEARCH

SU
Center

thematic areas: (i) Value Chain research; (ii) Emerging technologies for the management of pests and diseases; (iii) Climate-Smart Agriculture; and (iv) Advancing global education through building the capacity for international research collaboration and student exchange programs, which are in line with the 2018-24 SU Ag Center Strategic Plan.

The Center strives to (i) foster international partnerships aimed at strengthening agricultural development in developing countries; (ii) engage with international researchers in addressing new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases; (iii) engage in-country stakeholders in agricultural disaster recovery; and continuing with the activities previously carried out by the CEIED. The current CEGFSD project is titled: “Strengthening Learning, Discovery, and Engagement in Global Food Security and Defense in East/Southern Africa through a Regional Cluster of 1890 Universities.” It focuses on two countries: Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Overall, the current CEGFSD project aims to advance the long-term prosperity of the U.S. through global food security and defense initiatives.



The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC or SU Ag Center) is part of the 1890 Universities participating in the CEGFSD project through the East/Southern Africa Cluster. To this effect, Drs. James Obuya, Research Assistant Professor of Plant Sciences and Lead CEGFSD project at the SU Ag Center and Devaiah Kambiranda, Professor of Plant Sciences, recently visited three (3) CEGFSD project sites in Kenya: Murang’a, Embu, and Chuka Counties - political administrative regions in Kenya from January 20-29, 2024. Kenya is an important growing market for U.S. agricultural and food products. The country has a huge deficit for rice, which creates new agribusiness opportunities for Louisiana, one of the three top rice-producing states in the United States.

The Murang’a County project is led by the Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization – KALRO (www.kalro.org) and Kenyatta University (<https://www.ku.ac.ke>). The project focused on the “Enhancement of Global Food Supply Chains: East Africa Region as a Case Study.” This project looked at the Banana Value Chain in Murang’a County. On Monday, January 22, 2024, Drs. Obuya and Kambiranda had a fruitful meeting with faculty members and graduate students at Kenyatta University.

This was followed by a meeting with CEGFSD partners at KALRO – a public research organization.



On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, Obuya and Kambiranda visited two banana value chain projects supported by CEGFSD.

On January 24, 2024, the researchers met with the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, faculty members, and students in the College of Agriculture.

On January 25, 2024, Obuya and Kambiranda visited two farmers in Embu County. Most of these smallholder farmers practice mixed farming such as crop and animal husbandry. Therefore, it was easy to look at the challenges of new and emerging animal and crop pests and diseases in each location.

The Chuka County project is led by the University of Embu (<https://www.chuka.ac.ke>). The project focused on the “Enhancement of Agricultural Productivity in the East Africa Region.” On January 26, 2024, we had a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, faculty members, and students in the Faculty of Agriculture.

For additional information on the SU Ag Center’s work with the CEGFSD project, contact Dr. James Obuya at james_obuya@suagcenter.com.



Faculty & Staff HIGHLIGHT

Dr. De'Shoin A. York Elected 1890 AEA Secretary

Dr. De'Shoin A. York, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach, has been elected to the position of Secretary for the 1890 Association of Extension Administrators (AEA).

The 1890 AEA is a membership organization that represents Cooperative Extension Administrators from the nation's 19 historically black land-grant universities. The 1890 Cooperative Extension System assists diverse audiences, with emphasis on those who have limited social and economic resources, to improve the quality of life and vitality of individuals and communities through transformational engagement and outreach education.

Dr. York will serve a 1-year term as Secretary before transitioning into the position of Vice-Chair.



COMMUNICATIONS



Tune into the SU Ag Center's latest Podcast on the university's \$500k grant for research on the Mississippi River Delta. Listen to the monthly show by visiting www.suagcenter.com and click on "Podcast."



SU AG PODCAST

"Everyday we use some form of agriculture, from the time we wake up, until we go to bed. From clothing, gasoline, food, and bed linens — agriculture is all around us!"

Join us as we interview your Ag favorites, and bring you agriculture news.

Hosted by:
Dexter "Dex" Newman





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