



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's Fast Track Program Acknowledged for Innovation at Nation Extension Directors and Administrators (NEDA) Conference

As the result of a highly competitive process, the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's (SUAREC) Fast Track Gardening Program was selected from a field of 151 entries reported to a research team at Ohio State University. The research project is an ECOP project to develop a Cooperative Extension Innovation Inventory. That inventory was the basis for the 2015 NEDA meeting and was designed to show how Cooperative Extension is positioned for excellence in its second 100 years.

The SUAREC provides agricultural training to incarcerated and adjudicated youth. Training topics include communication and life skills, as well as horticultural and work force skills. Instruction involves both classroom and hands-on activities including the establishment of horticultural garden plots. Instructors utilize a community gardening curriculum that was developed by the SUAREC. Certificates are awarded upon successful completion of the program; they can be utilized to support applications at any horticultural-related establishment and for judge presentation at court to display program participation and compliance.

This program has been implemented at three facilities. Jetson Center for Youth (JCY) was the pilot program that began in May, 2011 until the closure of the facility in January, 2014. Gardening classes were conducted twice a week. In response to Jetson's abrupt closure, the program was established at THRIVE of Baton Rouge, a public charter boarding school that serves adjudicated students. Weekly classes at THRIVE began in May, 2014 and presently continue. A garden at THRIVE was established and is currently



**Standing from left, SUAREC Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood and Vice Chancellor for Extension Dr. Gina Eubanks pose for a photo during the NEDA Conference in St. Louis, MO.**

maintained by the school's students. We have also initiated a gardening program at the Bridge City Center for Youth in New Orleans, Louisiana. Several of the juveniles from JCY were transferred there, and provide leadership in the project.

Future plans include formalizing a memorandum of understanding with horticultural-related establishments to allow the program's graduates to obtain work opportunities upon release. The program will also endeavor to establish internship/work release opportunities for selected trustworthy youth to afford

work-related opportunities even while they are incarcerated.

On October 12-14, 2015, Extension Associate, Stephanie Elwood and Vice Chancellor of Extension, Dr. Gina E. Eubanks traveled to St. Louis, MO to represent the SUAREC's Fast Track team at the NEDA Conference. The program began in 2011 with the initial leadership of Christie Monroe. The team consists of Stephanie Elwood, Kelli Hollins, Mila Berhane, Dr. Owusu Bandele, Yemane Ghebreyessus, and Dr. Kasundra Cyrus.

Elwood and the Office of Technology & Communications at the SUAREC also participated in a Twitter Town Hall during the NEDA Conference. The Fast Track Gardening Program was one of four topics selected to be featured during the town hall.

The SUAREC will also host a Twitter Town Hall on December 3 from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. (CST).

## Hammond High Magnet School Pro Start Program

Hammond High Magnet School (H.H.M.S.) Pro Start Program's Culinary Arts students: Kyarah Golden, Kayleigh Kerner, Jayilen Handy, L.J. McKinley, Rayne Raleigh, Derrick Jackson, Madison Fisher, and Kenneth Collins prepared fresh local grown vegetables, salad, and shrimp pasta on October 27 at the school. Hopefully the youth can appreciate the importance of locally grown food they produced in September from seeds and transplants. Youth can enjoy delicious garden-based treats in the classroom and learn about the importance of including veggies on their plates.

Tangi Pro Start students learned to plant, nurture and harvest vegetables from their own raised beds. Youth also learned about nutritional choices and choosing a healthy lifestyle through diet and physical activity. Gardening ties into therapeutic exercises, earth, science, and math. The youth made the transition from school to farm when they took produce home to their families and shared with their high school faculty staff.



SU Ag Center Extension Agent Ahmad Robertson, Hammond High Magnet School Pro Start Program Culinary Arts Students and teacher Mrs. Drago display a harvest from the school's garden.

The youth harvested Georgia Collards, Redlight Swiss Shard, Buttercrunch Lettuce, Pak Choi, Red Sails Lettuce, Bell Peppers and Shallots. Cool season herbs included: Chives, Cilantro, Dill, Fennel, Parsley, and Chervil were added to the herb garden.

The Garden to Culinary Arts Kitchen program is an opportunity for H.H.M.S. Pro start students to grow fresh fruits and vegetables in their school gardens with the goal of supplying their harvest to the cafeteria to be used at lunch service.

Teacher Mrs. Drago has built a professional kitchen in a cozy, friendly and comfortable

atmosphere to share her passion for cooking with the students.

For more information on the H.H. M.S. Pro Start Program, contact the Ahmad Robertson at the St. Helena or Tangipahoa Extension Service, 305 E Oak St., Amite, by calling (985) 748-5462, (225) 222-4136, or email [ahmad\\_robertson@suagcenter.com](mailto:ahmad_robertson@suagcenter.com)

## The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives Helps Youth Participate in 4-H National Youth Science Day

The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives (SCRI) sponsored 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) events for over 600 students during the month of October. Youth in St. Landry, Beauregard, and Acadia Parishes joined youth across the world in 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 was titled 'Motion Commotion.'

Students from Northeast Elementary School in St. Landry Parish; Singer Elementary, East Beauregard

Elementary, and Merryville High School in Beauregard Parish, and Church Point Middle School in Acadia Parish, participated in the events.

Students conducted the two-part ‘Motion Commotion’ experiment using every day materials – including a toy car, modeling clay, a 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.

“Providing youth in rural areas with an interactive and engaging science experiment is always a joy; however, it’s imperative to also provide the students with a lesson they will need and utilize for a lifetime,” said Dr. Wanda Burke, Director of SCRI.

“4-H has aimed to teach students science for over a century, it is important that students in the 10-parish rural areas that the SCRI covers have the same access to STEM activities,” said Krystle Washington, Science Day Event Organizer. “When going into these communities, we [Goldie Jordan and William Augustine] are looking at future scientist, engineers, physicist, etc. and it’s amazing to see the excitement on their faces as we expose



**Top, Krystle Washington prepares students for the first phase of the ‘Motion Commotion’ Experiment. Bottom, students conduct experiment.**

them to the world of science in a fun and interactive way,” added Washington.

In addition to the experiment, Washington also adds a public speaking portion at the summation of the project. A student has to use scientific terms to adequately explain what took place throughout the experiment to their peers.

4-H NYSD is the world’s largest, youth-led science experiment. The national day is dedicated to engaging kids with science through a hands-on, interactive learning experience that gets youth excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The SCRI is a satellite campus of the Southern University Ag Center located in Opelousas. During the upcoming weeks, the Center will bring the 4-H National Youth Science Day experience to the remainder of its 10 parish region.

Television coverage of the event held at Northeast Elementary School aired on KATC 3 on October 15, 2015. The Daily World Newspaper carried the event under its’ campus news section on October 27.

To view the video, click the following link,

<http://www.katc.com/clip/11927116/national-4-h-day-celebrated-at-northeast-elementary>

## **SCRI Partners with STL Proud**

Extension Educator Krystle J. Washington has joined the St. Landry Preventing Rx Overuse and Underage Drinking (STL PROUD) Coalition.

The organization, formerly known as the St. Landry Parish Children & Youth Services Planning Board, includes approximately 20 non-profit organizations, state agencies, local municipal



governments, and businesses which service the needs of children and youth in St. Landry Parish. STL PROUD targets the 12-25 age group.

“While representing the Southwest Center by serving on the St. Landry Parish Children & Youth Services Planning Board; I have been afforded the opportunity to work closely and become a part of the STL PROUD coalition. It is imperative that individuals within St. Landry Parish who participate in underage drinking and prescription abuse have access to STL PROUD so we can build and develop stronger communities. It is truly an honor to serve on the STL PROUD coalition to actively and positively impact the community,” said Krystle Washington.



**Krystle Washington addresses the STL PROUD Coalition during a recent meeting.**

St. Landry Parish has been selected by the Louisiana Partnerships for Success as one of 10 high need parishes in the state to address the priorities of underage drinking, prescription drug misuse/abuse, and depression. In addressing these priorities, the St. Landry Parish Children & Youth

Services Planning Board has branded itself as the STL PROUD Coalition. In highlighting the acronym STL PROUD, the intent is to bring positive presence in addressing the ills of underage drinking and prescription drug misuse/abuse.

Rather than the messaging of “don’t do this” and “stop doing that,” the STL PROUD Coalition seeks to build a sense of pride among the targeted age populations to be addressed and hopefully, seeing a sense of pride will permeate the whole parish, while addressing the issues of underage drinking and prescription drug misuse/abuse. There is the belief that ‘The Power of Change’ is at work in the parish. We are “One parish pulling together to change our future!”

For more information on STL PROUD, please visit their website, at <http://www.stlproudcoalition.com/>.

For more information on how you can be involved, give suggestion, or questions/ concerns; contact Krystle J. Washington at [Krystle\\_Washington@suagcenter.com](mailto:Krystle_Washington@suagcenter.com).

## **SU Ag Center Teams Up With LSU AgCenter to Conduct Honey Bee**

More than 30 current and budding honey bee enthusiasts from diverse Louisiana parishes convened at the Breaux Bridge Extension Office on October 16 to learn about the challenges and opportunities in honey bee-keeping.

The goal of the training was to mitigate against recent bee loss in the state. The discussions centered on colony collapse disorder, mites, pesticides, management,



**Steven Bernard, owner, shows and tells about his honey bee business**

seed treatment and diseases. Sebe Brown, LSU area agent taught, about pollinator protection. Following the presentation, participants traveled to Bernard's Apiaries for a bee yard live demonstration and honey facility operation tour led by the facility's

owner, Steven Bernard.

Some suggested solutions included seed treatment with neonicotinoids and effective communication with

all partners involved in spraying cultivated fields with chemicals that may impact the lives of bees.

All trainees received resource information on bees, wasps, and other stinging creatures.

The training was coordinated by DeLane Ross, SU Ag Center extension agent, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, and sponsored by LSU AgCenter and Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE).

## **NIFA Recognizes Outstanding Contributions on Annual Day of Appreciation**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, 2015 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced NIFA Partnership Award recipients and Hall of Fame inductees, honoring those whose exemplary work has helped the agency fulfill its mission of investing in and advancing agricultural research, education, and extension.

“We place high value on the teams of researchers and other individuals who have enacted positive change on the future of agriculture and science through their work,” said Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA Director. “They, and dedicated NIFA employees, have made contributions to this agency and its mission that will have long-standing impacts on the work we do to help address our nation’s most pressing challenges.”

Three categories of the 2015 NIFA Partnership Awards were presented to the lead institution of grantee projects that have created outstanding impacts:

- Mission Integration of Research, Education, and Extension, awarding teams that work across all three of NIFA’s mission areas to produce positive outcomes in agriculture, the environment, communities, or people.

The Useful to Usable Team from Purdue University improved the usability of climate information to guide agricultural production in the Midwestern

United States Corn Belt. This team of biophysical and social scientists produced climate-based decision support tools to assist cereal crop farmers and agricultural advisors throughout their purchasing, marketing, and activity planning. These tools are free and publicly available at [AgClimate4U.org](http://AgClimate4U.org)(link is external).

- Multistate Efforts, granted to awardees whose projects are responding to critical needs important to each project leader’s state.

The Stronger Economies Together (SET) Initiative, a project run cooperatively between USDA Rural Development and Mississippi State University, aims to help rural counties overcome the economic challenges that they face. SET guides collaborations within multi-county regions, helping them to develop regional economic plans based on self-assessments of strengths and assets. Over 1,500 organizations across 54 regions in 30 states are currently engaged in plans to address needs and strengthen assets such as rural healthcare, agritourism, and entrepreneurship.

Innovative Programs and Projects, awarding teams that use a unique combination of resources and disciplines to enact positive outcomes in response to important regional or national issues.

The Bayou Recyclers program from Southern University and A&M College works to convert trash to treasure using aquaculture waste (AW),

such as shellfish parts, and burnt corn gluten meal, a corn byproduct intended for use as fertilizer, but inadvertently burnt during transport. The team has developed ways of turning what has been a major Louisiana waste problem into low cost feed and fertilizer, for example, by solar drying AW and developing methods for increasing its crude protein content.

Additionally, four individuals were inducted into the NIFA Hall of Fame to recognize their contributions to the agency's mission:

- Dr. Meryl Broussard, NIFA Associate Director for Programs, was honored for his character and commitment to excellence in upholding NIFA's mission throughout his more than 30 years of service at the agency and its predecessors. Dr. Broussard provided agency-wide leadership throughout the planning and establishment of NIFA as mandated under the 2008 Farm Bill and served as the agency's first full-time National Program Leader in aquaculture, launching many of the first research and extension aquaculture programs.
- Mr. Delbert Foster, South Carolina State University Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension, was recognized for his leadership and contributions to land-grant universities. He has served as a liaison between 1890 land-grant university programs at SC State and NIFA, Clemson University, and the Budget and Control Board of South Carolina. Additionally, Mr. Foster is a member of the 4-H National Board of Directors and chairs the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy of the Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU).

- Dr. Ralph Otto, former NIFA Deputy Director for Food and Community Resources, was honored for his 37 years of federal service, 24 of which were with NIFA and its predecessor agencies. Before joining the Extension Service in 1990, Dr. Otto worked in the USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development as a program leader for the Technical Assistance Division – Asia and Middle East – and as director of the International Training Division.

- Dr. Steven Slack, Ohio State University (OSU) Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, was recognized for advancing agricultural research and extension throughout his more than 40 years of faculty and administrative service. Prior to serving as an administrator at OSU, Dr. Slack was an accomplished plant pathologist at the University of Wisconsin and Cornell University. He has also provided leadership to several boards of the APLU, is a fellow and past president of the American Phytopathological Society, and is a fellow elected into the American Academy for the Advancement of Science.

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. To learn more about NIFA's impact on agricultural science, visit [nifa.usda.gov/impacts](http://nifa.usda.gov/impacts) or follow us on Twitter @usda\_nifa(link is external), #NIFAimpacts(link is external).

## SU Ag Center Helps Rural Citizens Improve Economic & Community Development



Standing from left are SU Ag Center employees Gloria London, Nicolette Gordon, Eual Hall, Frankie Poland, SU Dean of the College of Business Dr. Donald Andrews, Ahmad Roberson, Tiffany Franklin, Ellen McKnight and Linda E. Brown.

On October 30, USDA Rural Development State Director for Louisiana Mr. Clearance Hawkins, his

assistant Mr. Lee Jones, and other members of his agency came to observe and strengthen efforts of the

Louisiana Alliance Cultivating Economic Success (LACES) Civic Forum meeting in Amite, LA. The Southern University Agriculture Research and Extension staff assisted more than 75 members

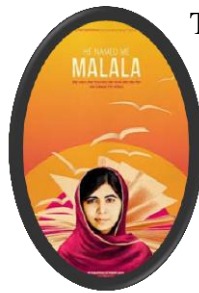
from the Stronger Economics Together (S.E.T.) group working to improve economic and community development initiatives in the southeast region comprised of four parishes - East Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa and Washington.

The focus and assessment of the LACES gathering was to display a regional snapshot of the area's demography, human capital, labor force, industry and occupation. The purpose of the snapshot is intended to inform the region's leaders, organizations and residents of the key attributes of the region's population and economy. The idea is to utilize the stock of the region's important assets and investments to soften the resistance of challenges faced and use data in hand, regional leaders and organizations in a better position to invest in the mix of strategies that will foster the growth of the economy and farther provide a higher quality of life for residents of the region.

## SU Ag Center & AHF Honors Outstanding Mature Girlz Club Honor Roll

The Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SUAREC), and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) are working together to incentivize Outstanding Mature Girlz (O.M.G.) Club members that maintained an 3.5 – 4.0 grade point average for the first six weeks of the academic school year.

On Friday, October 9, 2015 – fifteen O.M.G. club members traveled to AMC Theatre at the Mall of Louisiana to see, “He Named Me Malala.” This documentary



looks at the events that led to a vicious attack by the Taliban on Malala Yousafzaia, a young women's rights activist in Pakistan.

“Not only are we rewarding young ladies for their academic excellence, but hopefully this movie will spark insight to make social changes in their communities,” said Nicolette Gordon, Assistant Area Agent, SU Ag Center. “I want them to see the great lengths that young courageous women have endured for something we often take for granted.”

The O.M.G. Club meets every second Wednesday at Kentwood High Magnet School under the



leadership of Nicolette Gordon. For more information on how you can be involved, contact Nicolette via email at

nicolette\_gordon@suagcenter.com or in the Tangipahoa Parish Extension Office at 985.748.9381.

## Twenty Louisiana Students Traveled to Mississippi to Rally & March over State Flag

Students from Kentwood High Magnet School and St. Helena College & Career Academy, along with Southern University Ag Center's Assistant Area Agent Nicolette Gordon, Youth Coordinator Toni Melton, and St. Helena College & Career Academy's Civics teacher Idella Smith, traveled to Jackson, Mississippi on October 11 to participate in the One Flag for All Mississippians March and Rally.



Standing from left are, South Carolina State Rep. Jenny Horne, Civil Rights Activist Myrlie Evers-Williams, Former SU SGA President & Rapper David Banner and Sharron Brown.

Carolina State Representative Jenny Horne, Rapper & Former Southern University SGA President David Banner, and Civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams, to show support of Initiative 55, which calls for the removal of the Confederate battle emblem

from the State of Mississippi's Flag.

The march began at the intersection of J.R. Lynch and Rose Street and ended at the steps on the south side of the Mississippi State Capitol, where the rally lasted from 3:40 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The 20 students were engaged during their Civics classes on the importance of letting their voices be heard, and the many ways they can get involved to do so. This sparked their interest in participating in the history making event.

"We shouldn't have a flag that represents a bad time in our history," says Sharron Brown, who proposed Initiative 55. Brown is also starting to collect signatures for the initiative, and she's hoping to see it on the state's ballot in 2018.

The march and rally were organized by local leaders across the United States and was led by South

## SU System President Honored

Southern University System Board of Supervisors members Raymond Fondel and Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Jr. along with SU Ag Center Assistant Area Agent for Calcasieu and Jefferson Parishes Carol Sensley participated and attended a networking luncheon and



From left are, SU System Board of Supervisors members Raymond Fondel, SU Ag Center Extension Agent Carol Sensley, SU System President/ Chancellor Dr. Ray Belton and SU Board of Supervisors member Rev. Samuel Tolbert.

reception honoring SU System President/ Chancellor Dr. Ray Belton on October 12, 2015 at Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

## St. Helena Arts & Technology Academy School Garden

On October 5, 2015 the St. Helena Arts & Technology Academy (S.H.A.T.A.) revealed its model demonstration school garden. SU Ag Center Area Agents for St. Helena & Tangipahoa Parishes Ahmad R. Robertson, Sr. and Nicolette Gordon; Louisiana Master Gardeners Roger Olsen, Carol Kliff, and Quincy Walker; USDA NRCS Brandon Bates, and Samuel Terry demonstrated best management practices for a winter garden.

The St. Helena College & Career Academy Junior Master Gardeners and 4-H Club members William Lloyd, Jermil Myles, Regina Hughes, JQualene Singleton, Sam Banks, Scott Galmon, Savannah Fisher, Charleston Topps, Tridarian Dehon, Jamarcus Morris, Caranisha Franklin, Jewellisha Muse, Shern Martin, Tyrell Ricard, Kyla Bryant, Teanna Lee, Abrienna Brumfield, and Quajane Ross; along with Outstanding Mature Girlz Club members Brianna Banks, Kevelyn Brown, Chritearra Brumfield, Symone Bryer, Diamond Burton, Chhya Frazier, Jacoda Green, Ashifa Jackson, and Ariel Scott supervised the S.H.A.T.A. Fifth grade students.

Mr. Terry Guy, Agricultural teacher at St. Helena College & Career Academy is doing an outstanding job in preparing future agriculture leaders with Supervised Agriculture Experience Programs. St. Helena Arts & Technology Fifth grade teachers Mrs. Rosetta Garner, Mrs. Shevonda Williams, and Mrs. Crystal Jones provided students with hands-on training on plant spacing, location, transplanting, irrigation, mulching and the cultivating of fifteen vegetable plots. S.H.A.T.A science students get an introduction to sound, electricity, plants, animals,

and the three states of matter (solid, liquid, and gas). The students explored life science, earth science, and physical science.



Students learn about plant spacing.

The primary purpose of the garden is to showcase flowering plants, and vegetables that perform well in our climate and soils with minimal maintenance. Demonstration gardens showcase plants and sustainable gardening techniques appropriate to local areas and provide learning opportunities for home gardeners, landscape planting and maintenance procedures.

The gardens include annual display beds of Louisiana recommended plant varieties. Cool season vegetables such as: Georgia collards, Packman F1 Broccoli, Ruby Perfection F1 Cabbage, Early Platinum Dynasty Lettuce, Buttercrunch, Paris Island Romaine & Arugula, Kale Toscano, Cauliflower Snow Crown F1, Mustard Red Giant & Florida Broadleaf, and Swiss Chard Bright Lights will be displayed in the raised beds. Cool season herbs: Chives, Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, and Chervil will highlight the herb garden. The entrance arbor tunnel will display Louisiana Super Plants, Snap Dragons, and Amazon Dianthus. Planting ideas for homeowners will be plentiful at the demonstration garden; it will include plants that are attractive, affordable, and readily available. These plants can easily be incorporated into home landscapes.

School gardens are a wonderful way to use the schoolyard as a classroom, reconnect students with the natural world and the true source of their food. It also teaches students valuable gardening and agriculture concepts and skills that integrate with several subjects, such as math, science, art, health and physical education, and social studies, as well

as several educational goals, including personal and social responsibility.

“The St. Helena Parish School District is very pleased to have Ahmad R. Robertson Sr. and all his colleagues provide engaging, hands-on educational experiences for our students that connect to the real world,” said Dr. Kelli Joseph, Superintendent of St. Helena Parish Public Schools.

Are you looking to volunteer in a school garden? Whether you are interested in a one time commitment or are looking for an ongoing volunteer opportunity. S.H.A.T.A. youth need your help. Our greatest volunteer need is for support with our education programs, and leading gardening activities with small groups of students. The students will perform garden maintenance from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Monday thru Friday.

## Orleans Parish holds 4-H Program

National 4-H week was held on October 4th- October 10th. St. Peter Claver’s 4-H club meeting was facilitated by Assistant Extension Youth Development Agent Krystal Sugulleh Stewart along with the club’s volunteer leader. 4-H youth club members participated in elections of officer leader positions. Youth practiced and enhanced their public speaking skills by presenting their election speeches in front of their



4-H Club Members

peers. Youth officer leaders for St. Peter Claver’s 5th, 6th and 7th grade Science classes were elected. The club members concluded their 4-H club meeting by creating a 4-H poster that states what 4-H Grows in Orleans Parish. As displayed on the poster, 4-H grows friendships, minds, kindness, diversity, helping hands, service and leaders. Youth 4-H club members posed for a photo with the National 4-H Week Slogan #4-H Grows Here in Orleans Parish.

## SU Ag Center Partners with Two Local Nursing Homes to Spread Holiday

Not everyone who lives in a retirement community gets visitors, and the Southern University Ag Center has teamed up with the St. Helena Parish Nursing Home & Kentwood Manor to help bridge that gap. "Adopt-a-GP," which is a short acronym for Grand Parent, is a community service project used to pair a teenager in the community, with one elderly person. Teens will visit and spend time with them during the holiday season playing games, dancing, creating crafts, and hanging holiday décor.

"I'm very excited about the partnership," said Nicolette Gordon, SU Ag Center’s, Assistant Area

Agent. “Grand-parents are the fabric of wisdom, and this type of volunteer opportunity can definitely be more rewarding primarily because of its mutual benefits.”

Students participating in the Jag Leader, and O.M.G. Club organizations in Tangipahoa & St. Helena Parishes attended a training on November 11th & 12th during their regular club meetings time to discuss, “Working with the Elderly.”

For more information on how you can partner to enhance our Adopt-a-GP! Community Service

## SU student Sally Ross selected as HBCU All-Star Scholar by White House Initiative

Baton Rouge native, Sally Ross, always knew it was her destiny to attend Southern University A&M College.

That destiny was taken a step further when she was offered a scholarship and open arms into the Urban Forestry program.

“It was a field that I was most interested in,” Ross said.

As a senior and in August 2015, Ross was selected to be a 2015 HBCU All-Star Scholar by the White House Initiative for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Ross was ranked 83rd out of 450 students that applied for the selection. Becoming an 18% of university students that won the award.

“I am very honored to be the 2015 HBCU All-Star for Southern University,” Ross said. “As the HBCU All-Star, I will be able to showcase the advantages of an HBCU education, represent the interests of HBCU students and achieve dreams in the public and educational realm.”

Before her accolades, Ross was a student at Glen Oaks High School in the Upward Bound Program when she met a woman of inspiration, Janana Snowden, Ph.D. of the

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, in which widened Ross’s expectations.



**Sally Ross, standing on the right, poses for a photo with her mentor, SU Ag Center Research Scientist Janana Snowden.**

“She was someone young and pursuing something amazing and I was attached to her. I really admire and respect her,” Ross said.

In the program, Ross lived on the campus throughout the summer and latched onto Snowden; and since then,

Ross has matriculated inside the university and has become an adult.

“Southern taught me how to be an adult and an adult that wants to make a change in the world,” she added. “But I wish I could show the Agricultural Center the work I have done outside of campus.”

Ross has worked as an intern for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee for three consecutive summers since 2013. While there, she has worked in the field of Forestry Management.

After graduating in December, Ross wants to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Policy at Southern University.

Ross said she doesn’t have a dream job because she didn’t want to minimize her options as a hard worker.



This semester Ross said that it's her time to shine.

## Let's Make Better Food Choices

The SU Ag Center's Families First-Nutrition Education and Wellness System Program (FF-NEWS), continues to cultivate partnerships with inner city social service programs and organizations. On October 26, 2015, East Baton Rouge & East Feliciana Parish Nutrition Educator, Marquetta Anderson, educated the participants at Bishop Ott's Women's Shelter on the importance of making better food choices.

Following the lesson, Mrs. Anderson opened the floor for questions and a group discussion. The ladies were especially interested in daily water



**Nutrition Discussion at Bishop Ott's Women's Shelter**

intake recommendations, reading nutrition labels, and how to decipher whole grains.

"We appreciate the work that the SU Ag Center and Mrs. Anderson do here at the shelter. She has been coming to us, consistently, for over a year and were glad to have her," said Ms. Reid, Daytime Program Coordinator.

While Mrs. Anderson prepared their fresh fruit salads, the ladies shared what changes they planned on making in their diets and food selection going forward.

Contact us with questions or comments regarding our programs at [ellen\\_mcknight@suagcenter.com](mailto:ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com).

## SU Ag Center Launches Nutrition Curriculum for Schools and Communities

The Southern University Ag Center's Families First -Nutrition Education and Wellness System (FF-NEWS) recently launched its fall nutrition curriculum in schools and communities across the state.

East Baton Rouge and East Feliciana Parish Nutrition Educator, Kiyana Kelly, reviewed MyPlate and USDA Dietary Guidelines with 9th -12th graders at East Feliciana High School on Oct. 22.



**Nutrition Education**

After the presentation and class discussion, students participated in a hands-on food demonstration preparing fresh fruit parfaits. "I like trying new things when Ms. Kelly comes to our class." said sophomore Kenan Moore.

Moore shared that he was also a Junior Horse Show Posse rider with the SU Ag Center and is considering a career in Agriculture.

## SU Ag Center receives letter of intent to Fund 4-H National Mentoring Program

The Southern University Ag Center has received a letter of intent from the National 4-H Council in the amount of \$115,920 to fund the Center's 4-H National Mentoring Program.

The SU Ag Center's 4-H National Mentoring Program seeks to rebuild broken family units who have been impacted by parental incarceration. The program engages youth ages 5 to 17 in interactive

family activities that include the incarcerated parent and the caregiver.

For additional information about the Southern University Ag Center's 4-H National Mentoring Program contact the grant's Principle Investigator Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, at [tiffany\\_franklin@suagcenter.com](mailto:tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com); Co- Principle Investigator Milissia John-Baptiste, at [milissia\\_jbaptiste@suagcenter.com](mailto:milissia_jbaptiste@suagcenter.com) or by calling 225-771-2242.

## Extension Educator Forms Community/ Professional Development Partnerships in Six Parishes

Professional Development is a cornerstone of Community Development. Krystle J. Washington, Extension Educator, has formed a partnership with: Acadiana Works, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Acadia Parish Business and Career Solution Center, Evangeline Parish Business and Career Solution Center, St. Landry Parish Business and Career Solution Center, St.

Martin Parish Business and Career Solution Center, and Vermillion Parish Business and Career

Solution Center to provide a series of professional development workshops on resume' writing and

editing, interview etiquette, and how to dress for success.



From left, Brenda Higdon, Krystle Washington and Michael Morris

After initially meeting with Michael Morris, Director/ Workforce Investment Board Member of the St. Landry Parish Business and Career Solutions Center and Brenda Higdon, Workforce Development Supervisor; a needs analysis was conducted and it

was deemed necessary to provide professional development for adults in the various parishes.

The workshops are set to begin within the coming weeks

## Southwest Center does Bullying/ Conflict Resolution Seminars at area school

On October 30, Krystle Washington, Extension Educator, educated over 200 students at the Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts (MACA) on the many

forms of bullying, how to take an active role from being the bully, bystander, or victim, and effective ways to resolve conflicts that occur in everyday life.

Krystle stated, “I highly commend MACA for taking the state standards (Under Act 861 enacted in 2012, which states that school employees are required to participate in four hours of training to learn how to detect, prevent and end bullying) which only requires teachers to learn how to end bullying, and being more proactive to involve and empower students to also take a stand against bullying.

“The students at MACA are extremely talented, and it was amazing to see the theater students come up with a skit to role play how to effectively stop bullying and resolve conflicts without belligerence and violence,” said Washington.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month.

For more information; please contact Krystle J. Washington at  
Krystle\_Washington@suagcenter.com.

## **Educator seeks to make impactful change to community through the youth at Opelousas Jr. High School**

On October 13th, Krystle Washington (Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives) met with students in the Century 21 after school program at Opelousas Jr. High. The objective and purpose of the meeting was to expose the youth to character education and leadership development through an engaging lesson on creative writing, anti-



**Youth character education and leadership development**

bullying, and conflict resolution.

Students were initially asked to think of a time where they were the bully, target, or bystander. They were then given a “My Story Journal” to briefly chronicle the event. Lastly, students shared and mutually came up with better ways they could have handled the situation they presented on (conflict resolution).

“Before beginning the lesson, I knew that once I had their attention, I would be able to get them to participate and provide feedback in an engaging and thought provoking manner,” said Washington.

The main goals that were accomplished were: students were able to work on their writing skills, realize their potential to become leaders amongst their peers, and improve their character through education.

“Community development starts at the youth level, because they are our leaders for tomorrow,” said Washington. “When assessing the youth and community intersection, I always reflect on the words of Frederick Douglas, “It is much easier to build strong children, than repair broken adults,” she added.

## **Agribusiness Council of Louisiana Leadership holds Forum in New Orleans**

The Agribusiness Council of Louisiana Leadership Forum: Leadership and Action, held its annual forum on Wednesday, October 21 at the USDA-ARS- Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans. The primary goal of this organization is to enhance the competitiveness of Louisiana Agriculture in the 21st Century.

This year's forum was themed: Ag Leadership & Animal Rights as a Mainstream Phenomenon.

Dr. Bernard Rollin, University Distinguished Professor of Colorado State University delivered the keynote address, and Dr. Douglas Steele, Director, Texas AgriLife Extension Service discussed, "Leadership Issues & Efforts from Other Locations/States."

Approximately 75 people from across the state of Louisiana attended the meeting. Dawn Mellion-

Patin, Ph.D., Agriculture Specialist, served on the planning committee for the forum. Other participants from the SU Ag Center included Renita Marshall, DVM; Zanetta Augustine, Extension Associate; and Christopher Rogers, Director of Technology and Communications Services.

The Agribusiness Council consists of a group of progressive individuals whose primary purpose is to expand the scope of Louisiana Agriculture by promoting Research, Education, Business Climate and Trade.

This forum was sponsored by the Agribusiness Council of Louisiana, the Audubon Nature Institute, LSU AgCenter, USDA, the Louisiana Egg Commission, the Southern University Ag Center, and Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.



## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Roselle Hibiscus

Southern University Ag Center Scientists Drs. Yadong Qi, Vanessa Ferchaud and Kit L. Chin published a new research article on Roselle hibiscus in the Biomedical Chromatography journal. The paper is entitled, “Variations in chemical fingerprints and major flavonoid contents from

the leaves of thirty-one accessions of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.” This research identified 6 flavonoids as the major antioxidant compounds in leaves of the

Roselle hibiscus. Based on these compounds profiles and contents, the scientists discovered that 27 out of 31 accessions have a great similarity, while the other 4 accessions are somewhat different from the main group. This study will be useful for product development and quality control in utilization of Roselle hibiscus leaves. The article can be viewed and downloaded at the following web link,

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/bmc.3623/epdf>.

For more information, please contact Yadong Qi at [yadong.qi@suagcenter.com](mailto:yadong.qi@suagcenter.com).

## PUBLICATIONS

SUAREC scientists, **Drs. Xiaobing Liu, Kit L. Chin** and **Yadong Qi** have published a research article in the International Journal of Plant Production 9(4):561-579, entitled “Mapping soybean physiology research based on the web of science”, 10/2015. The article is available online at <https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2015am/webprogram/Paper91493.html>

SUAREC scientists, **Drs. Yadong Qi** and **Kit L. Chin** have research collaboration with Dr. Jin Wang of SFA Key Laboratory of Bamboo and Rattan Science and Technology, International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan < Chaoyang District, Beijing, People’s Republic of China and published a hibiscus research paper entitled “Variations in chemical fingerprints and major flavonoid contents

from leaves of thirty-one accessions of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.” in Biomedical Chromatography 09/2015. The article can be viewed and downloaded at the following web link,

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/bmc.3623/epdf>.

SUAREC has formed a scientific medicinal marijuana research consortium with SU-BR to develop a marijuana research capability and research endeavor that can address the issues and concerns of the SUS clientele. This consortium consists of **Drs. Adell Brown, Interim Chancellor, Kit L. Chin, Janana Snowden, Yadong Qi, Renita Marshall** and **Ms. Ursula Ransburg** from SUAREC and **Drs. Rao Uppu, S.N. Murthy, Sanjay**

Batra from the Department of Environmental Toxicology and SU Health Research Center and

Drs. Cheryl Taylor and Madan Kundu from the School of Nursing.

## *Upcoming Events*

**December 3:** Southern University Ag Center's Twitter Town Hall. The event will be held from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. (CST).

**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.