



SEEDS *of* SUCCESS

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

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SU Ag Center Receives \$235,000 for Programming and Research Projects



The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences received \$235,000 during a special presentation on November 24, 2023 at the Southern University Board of Supervisors annual meeting in New Orleans.

The Ag Center and the College of Ag received \$35,000 from the Mosaic Company to support 1890 programming for initiatives such as the annual Agricultural Career Expo and Vino on the Bluff. This support will assist the Ag Center and the College of Ag in furthering our mission of research, education, and outreach in the fields of agriculture, human sciences, and environmental sciences.

“From mine-to-market, the Mosaic Company has partnered with the land-grant campus to deliver scientific solutions for problems like food insecurity and the negative effects of the mining, potash, and phosphate fertilizer,” said Robert Easley, Director of Advancement at the SU Ag Center. “The Mosaic Company’s commitment to our programs and initiatives is truly appreciated, and we look forward to a continued partnership in advancing our shared goals. Together, we are working to help the world grow the food it needs. Thank you for your support and we look forward to a fruitful partnership into

the Spring and Summer semesters,” added Easley.

The Center and the College also received \$200,000 from the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation to support three faculty research projects focused on high-science based agriculture research at the SU Ag Center.

The impact of this funding has played a pivotal role in advancing crucial scientific inquiry and innovation within the field of agriculture. This funding also aids the Ag Center in growing its private funding portfolio.

Mosaic is the world’s leading integrated producer of phosphate and potash and employs more than 13,000 people in six countries to serve farmers throughout the world.

The Louisiana-based Brown Foundation is dedicated to relieving human suffering, the betterment of communities, and supporting educational initiatives.

For information on ways to support the work of the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Ag, contact Robert Easley at robert_easley@suagcenter.com.

Student SPOTLIGHT

The College of
Agricultural, Human and
Environmental Sciences (CAHES)
is proud to highlight the academic
achievement of the following student.

Nickolas Lawrence

Nickolas Lawrence is a junior majoring in Plant and Soil Sciences. He recently participated in the 2023 Experiential Explorations program at John C. Smith University, where he had the opportunity to travel to Highlands, North Carolina, to conduct research on Slippershell mussels by collecting DNA samples using probes and lab kits.

Lawrence also analyzed data from food deserts, sorted census tracts, and even snorkeled in the Little Tennessee and Cheoah Rivers to learn about the different fish species in the water. Students in the program also traveled to Georgetown, South Carolina, where they utilized trawling methods to catch and analyze the aquatic life.

Lawrence was also provided with the opportunity to visit historical native sites where he learned about the Cherokee people's connections to the land and Atlantic Beach, and about the African-American relationship to the land, persistent poverty, and environmental injustice.

"I learned a lot, including discovering just how profitable rice farming and production is in South Carolina and how the effects of climate change on biodiversity," said Lawrence.

For more about
the John C.
Smith University
Experiential
Explorations
program, contact
Dr. Jacqueline
McComb at
jacqueline.
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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Child Development
LABORATORY
“Learning Without Limits”

SU Child Development Lab Director Keisha Ceaser Receives the Above and Beyond Award

Keisha Dandridge Ceaser, Director and Instructor of the Southern University Child Development Laboratory, received the Southern University System’s Above and Beyond Award during the Southern University System Board of Supervisors meeting on November 24, 2023.

The “Above and Beyond Award” was established to help inspire and motivate Southern University employees to reach their maximum performance. It honors outstanding achievements in the workplace, exceptional contributions toward efficiency and effectiveness of operations, special efforts in promoting workforce excellence, or outstanding service to the University community and constituents.

One award is presented at the SU Board of Supervisors meetings each month. Recipients of the award are nominated by their peers and the top three nominations are then selected by the Board of Supervisors chair and vice chairs.

Ceaser has served as the director of the Child Development Lab since it officially opened on August 12, 2019, for children from infants to pre-K.

“Ms. Ceaser, this recognition is well-deserved, acknowledging countless hours of hard work and creativity invested in shaping the future of our young learners,” said Dr. Renita Marshall, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academics and Associate Dean of the SU College of Ag, during the award presentation. “Your ability to lead with empathy and understanding has not only impacted the children but has also inspired the entire Child Development Laboratory team, from the teachers, student volunteers, the cook, all the way to the facility workers,” added Dr. Marshall.

Ceaser earned a Bachelor of Science in Child Development from Southern University and A&M College and a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Xavier University of Louisiana.



TEACHING

FAB Lab Students Design a Jacket for the Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Kim Hunter Reed

Southern University College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences Fashion and Business Laboratory (FAB Lab) fellows Darlynn Marks, Amaya Johnson, Maya Campbell, Kyra Reeves, JaNeice Allen, and Monica Pitts alongside FAB Lab Program Director, Dr. Samii Kennedy-Benson were commissioned to design a Bayou Classic jacket for Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, the Commissioner of Higher Education.



Dr. Reed wanted the jacket to incorporate aspects of Southern University and Grambling State University with gold accents to signify the Bayou Classic's 50th anniversary.

After two separate meetings for consultations and fittings, the students delivered the completed Jaguar and Tiger print garment to Dr. Reed's office on November 22, 2023.

The students and Dr. Kennedy-Benson were also interviewed on the LA Board of Regents podcast to discuss their experience making the jacket. The interview is available at, <https://bit.ly/47uEBFH>.

The jacket was recently displayed during the Fab Lab's Winter Showcase and Holiday Pop-Up Shop held on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

The FAB Lab is sponsored by a USDA grant to foster entrepreneurship amongst fashion students.

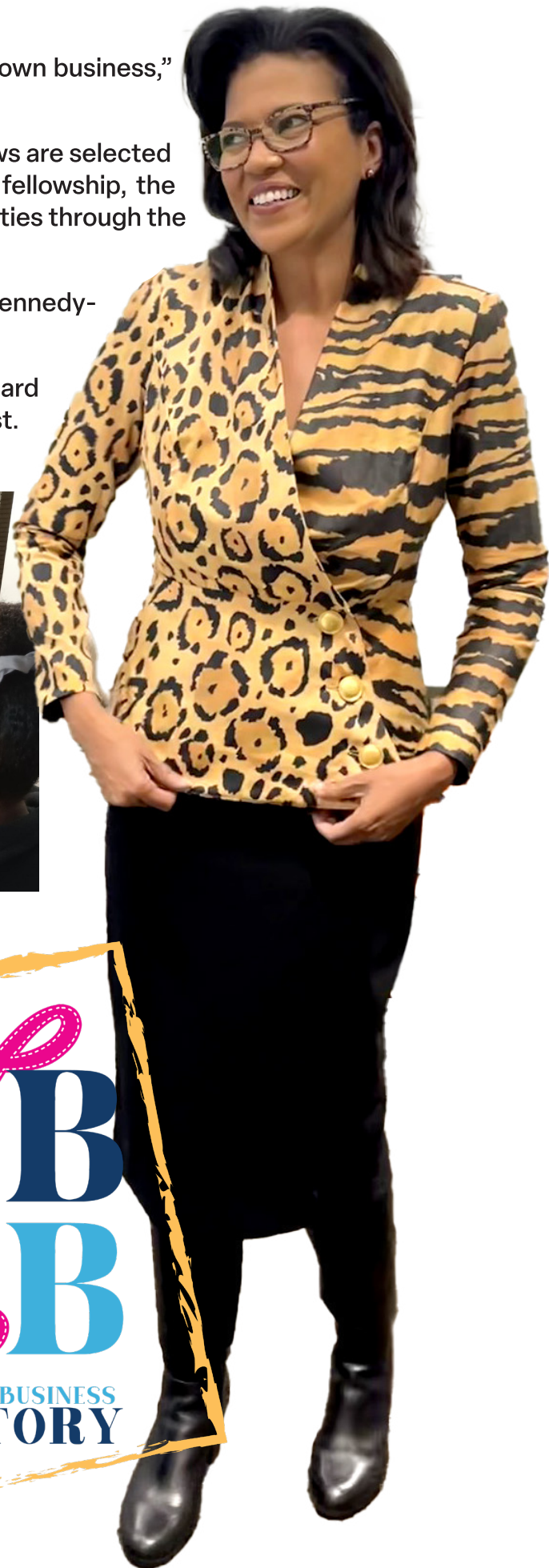
“The FAB Lab is for students who either have a business and they want to develop it more or students who

want to step into that realm and learn how to develop their own business,” stated Dr. Kennedy-Benson.

There are a total of six FAB Fellows in the program. The fellows are selected through an extensive application process. As a part of the fellowship, the students receive a stipend, mentorship, and other opportunities through the program.

For additional information on the FAB Lab, contact Dr. Kennedy-Benson at samii_kenedybenson@subr.edu.

Information for this article was provided by the Louisiana Board of Regents Louisiana’s Got Talent A Higher Education Podcast.



TEACHING

Center



The Importance of Life Skills and Preparing for A Better Future

The College of Agricultural, Human, and Environmental Sciences collaborated with Options Consulting, the Louisiana State Police, and The Butterfly Society to host an enlightening event titled, "The Importance of Life Skills and Preparing for A Better Future." This initiative, which was held on November 16, 2023, was a significant step towards equipping students with essential life skills that extend beyond their academic curriculum.

Options Consulting played a pivotal role in the seminar, engaging students with strategies and empowering pathways to success beyond their academic journey. The Butterfly Society, known for its advocacy in this field, provided valuable insights and guidance on how students can contribute to the importance of speaking out against domestic violence.

The event also featured a practical segment on safety, particularly in interactions with law enforcement. Louisiana State Police officers offered expert advice on how to handle various scenarios when being pulled over by law enforcement.

The event was a comprehensive effort to prepare students for real-world challenges, emphasizing the importance of life skills that are crucial for their personal and professional development. The collaboration of diverse organizations brought a multifaceted perspective to the discussion, making it a highly beneficial experience for the attendees.

For additional information on this event and other activities held by the College of Ag, contact Keandrys Dalton at keandrys_dalton@suagcenter.com.



EXTENSION

SU
Center



More Than 100 Attend SU Ag Center's Fall Garden Workshop

More than 100 small farmers and backyard gardeners attended the Southern University Ag Center's annual Fall Garden Workshop on November 21, 2023.

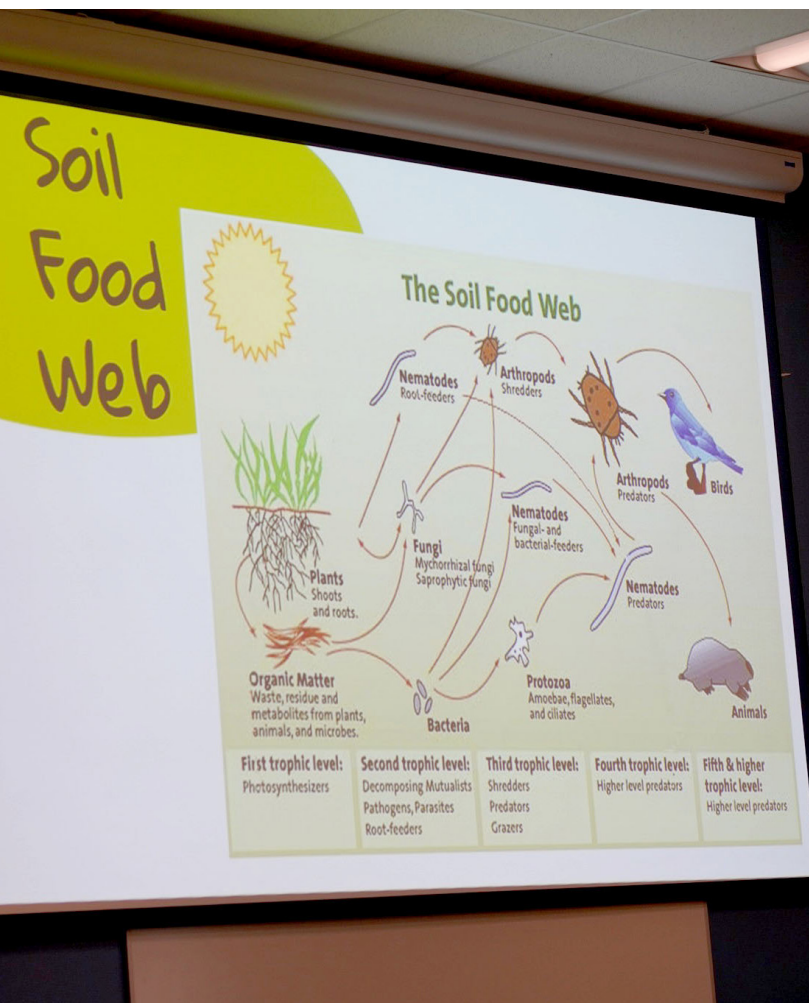
The workshop was held in the M. A. Edmond Livestock Arena's Multi-Purpose Building with the theme, "Climate Smart Practices."

The event provided small-scale gardeners and farmers, teachers, and community garden coordinators with information and hands-on demonstrations on how to prepare a garden for the Fall season. Topics covered during the workshop included agritourism, foraging, composting, and urban agriculture resources.



"We discussed climate-smart practices, new concepts but old practices," said Zanetta Augustine, Assistant Agricultural Specialist at the SU Ag Center and one of the workshop's organizers. "The workshop is held to refresh your mind and show examples to help you be successful in your garden," she added.

The Southern University Ag Center, its Wisteria Alliance Program, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program, the LSU AgCenter, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) were co-sponsors of the event.



RESEARCH

Center

Student Research Project Helps Students Gain Hands-on Experience

This article was written with information provided by Courtney Guilbeaux, a senior Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Pre-veterinary Science.

Courtney Guilbeaux, a senior agricultural science major with a concentration in pre-veterinary science from Dallas, Texas has been under the mentorship of Dr. Jodi Morton researching the “Effects of Storage Length, Fermentation Type, and Feed Type on the Nutrient Profile of Fermented Swine Feed.”

With this research, she is determining which fermentation type creates a more nutrient-dense feed. This process of fermentation could aid in cutting costs for farmers/sellers and possibly provide a better introduction to solid foods for weaned pigs.

“Undergraduate students should get involved in research because it can help solidify their interests, career goals, and increase problem-solving skills,” said Guilbeaux. “For students interested in graduate school, it is important to be skilled in advocating for yourself and gain hands-on experience,” she added.



Harnessing Nature's Power: Modular Urban Wetlands Alleviate Flood Risks in Residential Areas

Floods pose a significant threat to residential areas, causing extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and the environment. As urbanization continues, the need for innovative solutions to manage stormwater becomes crucial. One such solution gaining popularity is the implementation of constructed wetlands. These man-made ecosystems mimic the natural functions of wetlands and play a vital role in reducing flood risks in residential areas.

Dr. Chris Chappell, a researcher at the Southern University Ag Center and associate professor of the Department of Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources at the Southern University College of Ag, is working to advance the use of constructed wetlands to include modular urban wetland design using eco-friendly materials and agricultural waste. Through this process, Dr. Chappell is creating a “jAG Soil” that mimics a natural peat-like soil that takes 10 years per cm of development.



Dr. Chris Chappell

Modular urban wetlands are engineered systems designed to replicate the functions of natural wetlands. Unlike traditional stormwater management methods that rely on concrete channels and pipes, constructed wetlands harness the power of nature to control and treat stormwater. These systems consist of a variety of vegetation, soil, and in some cases, specialized engineering structures to effectively manage water flow.

The benefits of this project are not only to help with flood reductions but also to address flood control issues that are typically comprised of debris and neglected. Modular urban wetlands offer a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to flood control. By utilizing natural processes, they help maintain the delicate balance of ecosystems while mitigating flood risks. The byproduct of this system is biodiversity and habitat enhancement, increased aesthetics, and cost-effective infrastructure.

Modular urban wetlands stand as a testament to the harmonious integration of urban development with nature. By strategically incorporating these engineered ecosystems into residential areas, communities can effectively reduce the risks of flooding while simultaneously promoting biodiversity, improving water quality, and creating attractive green spaces. As the world faces the challenges of climate change and increasing urbanization, constructed modular urban wetlands offer a sustainable solution that blends the best of environmental science and ecological design.

For additional information on “jAG Soil,” contact Dr. Chappell at chris_chappell@subr.edu.

CONGRATS!



Twenty-four Students in the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences Earned Degrees

Twenty-four students in the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences graduated on December 15, 2023, during the Southern University and A&M College's Fall Commencement in the F.G. Clark Activity Center, along with more than 500 graduates from the University.

The keynote speaker for the commencement was Bishop Joseph Walker III, the senior leader of the historic Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee. The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University during the ceremony.

College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences students who received degrees were:

- **Ricky Julien** from Sunset, LA earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Depore Rosemond** from Donaldsonville, LA earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Ki'aunysti Brown** from Slaughter, LA earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Destyne Howard** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Michael Polite** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Winston Horton** from Nashville, TN earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Yasmyne Wells** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Payton Beaner** from Lafayette, LA earned a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- **Aniya Clark** from Forney, TX earned a B.S. in Human Sciences
- **Altaya Thomas** from Gonzales, LA earned a B.S. in Human Sciences
- **Aysha Finch** from Fife, WA earned a B.S. in Human Sciences
- **Lacie Williams** from New Orleans, LA earned a B.S. in Human Sciences
- **Timia Freeman** from Palmetto, LA earned a B.S. in Human Sciences
- **Trinity Thobias** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Human Sciences
- **Deron Isom** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources
- **Jared Anthony** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources
- **Jarrett Kirby** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources
- **Omari Phillips** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources
- **Tess Brown** from Baton Rouge, LA earned a B.S. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources
- **Saveon Dents** from Opelousas, LA earned a B.S. in Human Sciences
- **Elizabeth Babalola** from Osun, Nigeria earned an M.S. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources
- **Curtistine Deere** from Belzoni, MS earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology
- **Beatra Solomon Wilson** from Washington, D.C., earned a Ph.D. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources
- **Joyce McClendon Peralta** from Clinton, LA earned a Ph.D. in Urban Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources



COMMUNICATIONS



Tune into the Southern University Ag Center's latest Podcast which features information on the SU Ag Center's new JAGFresh Farmers Market. 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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