

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



Leodrey Williams

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US Secretary of Agriculture Appoints Dr. Abdollahi to National Advisory Council

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Dr. Kamran Abdollahi

On July 22, 2013, the United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack appointed Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Urban Forestry Program Leader at Southern University Ag Center to the National Urban and Community Forestry

Advisory Council (NUCFAC) representing the interest area of Academic Institutions with an expertise in Urban and Community Forestry Activities. Dr. Abdollahi, whose appointment will last for two years, is a professor of Urban Forestry at the SU Ag Center and also serves as Professor/Program Leader in Urban Forestry on SU Baton Rouge campus. The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is an appointed advisory council by the Secretary of Agriculture on urban forestry and related is-

sues. The 1990 Farm Bill created NUCFAC to bring together a wide variety of voices raised about a common concern: the present health and future preservation of America's urban forests. NUCFAC was founded to synthesize the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision, as a foundation for practical policy on urban forestry. The letter and certificate of appointment are attached. For a full list of current NUCFAC members, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.html>

Calcasieu Parish holds C.H.E.F. Camp

The SU Ag Center held a C.H.E.F. Cooking Camp June 3-7 in Calcasieu Parish with 16 youth participants who learned the proper cooking terms and measurements.

Participants gained knowledge in the "MyPlate," the importance of kitchen safety as well as cooking and eating healthy meals coupled with physical activities.

C.H.E.F. is an abbreviation for Creating Healthy & Enjoyable Food.

Carol Sensley, Extension Agent for Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis Parishes, conducted the week-long program.



CHEF Class in Session



Graduation Ceremony

Dr. Bandele Presents at Farm to Table International Symposium



Dr. Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus at the Southern University Ag Center was in the midst of food lovers, food scientists, agriculture experts, farmers, chefs and food writers gathered at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Cen-

ter in New Orleans for the first Farm to Table International Symposium, Aug. 2-4.

A panel on food justice, which included Professor Owusu Bandele, moderated by Mike Kantor of the Second Harvest Food Bank in New Orleans, aimed to illuminate critical issues involving equal access to fresh and nutritious ingredients.

Bandele highlighted Southern University's agriculture programs that work to introduce a new generation to land cultivation and healthy ingredients through community gardens, farmer's markets

and education.

He is quoted as stating that "It's easy to focus on the negative, but it's more important to think about the positive change we can bring to our communities when it comes to food and agriculture."

The event which was organized by the Convention Center and the Southern Food and Beverage Institute included speeches, demonstrations and panels. The panel on food security was moderated by Mike Strain, Louisiana Commissioner of Ag and Forestry. The event was covered by [*The Advocate*](#) on August 08, 2013.

CoC Network Attends National Conference in the 'Blue Sky' State

Director Linda Early Brown and regional coordinators Shawntell Lewis-Harrell, Urina F. Holt and LaTonya Owens represented the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center Communities of Color (CoC) Network at the 7th National Smokeless and Spit Tobacco Summit in Missoula, Montana. The conference was hosted by The College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Montana, August 6-8.

The theme for this year's conference was Empowering Advocates for the Next Frontier in Smokeless Tobacco, a refocusing of efforts to

bring awareness to the health consequences and marketing tactics associated with smokeless tobacco. Participants were exposed to a variety of general and plenary sessions including Transforming the Fight Against Smokeless Tobacco, The Changing Landscape of Smokeless Tobacco Marketing, Cultivating and Sustaining Coalitions, Empowering Youth Advocates, as well as, presentations on regulatory and health measures from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The conference shared a plethora of strategic efforts, best practices and lessons learned for tobacco prevention and control specialists to continue working to eradicate tobacco usage in the United States and beyond. The Communities of Color Network team will employ strategies and best practices as it navigates the state to help eradicate tobacco usage and to ensure a healthier community for the constituents of Louisiana.

Communities of Color Network is an affiliated tobacco education of the Louisiana Public Health Institute.

JAGS in AG Program Holds Student Orientation



Students at orientation

Ten students have been selected to participate

in the JAGS in AG: Recruitment, Exploration, and Retention Program. Each participating student will be provided a stipend of \$1,000 for each spring and fall semesters

Students are required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5, and take part in existing research and extension projects at the Southern University Agricultural Research

and Extension Center. Participants will remain eligible for this award annually as long as they meet all requirements.

Each student project team of two or more students, will have a research or extension mentor. Teams of recruits will be assigned to mentors based on interest, inclusive of climate change, childhood obesity, global food security and hunger, fashion merchandising, food safety, sustainable bio-energy, community and economic development, entrepreneurship, family life, leadership, and youth development. This team-mentoring approach will demonstrate to participants how research and extension-based prob-

lems are generally solved using a multi-disciplinary approach. Students will conduct assigned activities under the supervision of their mentors. They are expected to present their work as part of a presentation, oral or poster, at the end of their project period during a Campus Annual Ag Day.

Renita W. Marshall, DVM serves as Project Director of JAGS in AG, with CO-PDs Kenyetta Nelson Smith, Extension Specialist; Willie Rawls, Associate Research Director; and Gary Simon, Professor.

SUS 100% Tobacco-free Policy Highlighted at Conference

Frankie Poland a regional coordinator with Communities of Color Network presented a Case Study regarding the Southern University System 100% Tobacco-free Policy at the statewide Fresh Campus Training held in New Orleans on August 7th. During the presentation, Poland explained the impetus which led to the birth of the policy, the steps in the process, the challenges and its implementation.

Poland serves as an advocate for other HBCUs, colleges and universities seeking best practices and procedures in implementing 100% tobacco-free policies on their campuses. Under the leadership of Linda Early Brown, director of Communities of Color Network, Southern University System invested in the lives of their faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community in January 2012 to implement a tobacco-free policy. The policy in brevity prohibits the use of tobacco products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars,

cigarillos, pipes, bidis, hookahs, smokeless or spit tobacco, snuff, snus) by students, staff, faculty or visitors in all campus buildings, facilities or property owned or leased by Southern University System, and outside areas of the campus where non-smokers cannot avoid exposure to smoke.

For additional information on the statewide tobacco educational program, please contact Linda Early Brown at 225 771-4456.

SU Ag Center Joins Morehouse Black Farmers for Annual Field Day

Morehouse Black Farmers, in collaboration with the SU Ag Center and LSU AgCenter held their Annual Field Day at Mr. Harper Armstrong's shop on July 19th. To kick off the 2013 Farm Tour, Representative Katrina Jackson and Senator Mike Walworth addressed the audience of almost 300 people from surrounding areas, and as far as Michigan.

The tour began with a hayride to Mr. Harper Armstrong's 100-acre farm, where participants observed demonstration on irrigating row crops, soybeans, and poultry litter fertilizer, and organic litter application. Armstrong is the 2013 Louisiana Farmer of the Year.

The next stop was at Mr. Antwain Downs' corn plot. Dr. Ronnie Levy of LSU AgCenter explained the production of corn. SU Ag Center's Assistant Area Ag Agent, Mr. Odis Hill worked with the companies that donated the seeds for the project (Monsanto and Terral Seed) to develop this corn plot. Mr. Downs provided the land, equipment, labor, time and other production inputs. In return he will harvest the corn crop and share the yield data of each variety of corn with Monsanto, Terral Seed, and other local farmers.

The last stop of the tour was Mr. Michael Atkins' Beef Cattle Farm where he showcased his "Profits for the Planet" cow and hay operations. Mrs. Christie Monroe, SU Ag Center Livestock Manager, along with Jason Holmes of LSU AgCenter made a presentation on

the production of beef cattle and how to keep animals healthy going into the winter months.

The tour culminated at the Morehouse Ag Auditorium for lunch. Prior to serving lunch, there was food tasting contest to see what variety of corn had the best flavor. Mrs. Carolyn Robinson, SU Ag Center Associate Area Agent, East and West Carroll Parishes, supervised this event. Community leaders were chosen to judge the contest. Judges included Clarence Hawkins, former Mayor of Bastrop and now Louisiana Director of Rural Development; Kay King, Morehouse Economic Development Corporation; Harry Reese, Policy Juryman; Howard Loche, City Councilman; and Brian Shoemaker, MPSO Chief of Police. The corn variety "Obsession" came in 1st place.

Also, prior to serving lunch, a group of agriculture pioneers were presented with plaques, including, Mr. Elvadás Fields, A. J. Sabine, Antwain Downs, Dr. Dewayne Goldman and Mr. Harper Armstrong.

"The 2013 Field Day had the largest turn out ever, with more than 300 in attendance, and 25% were youth, the future of our community," Odis Hill said. Also the SU Ag Center showed an overwhelming support by the attendance of Dr. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor; Dr. Adell Brown, Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research; Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Extension; and other faculty and staff all over Louisiana.

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Chancellor Williams interacts with LSU student



Vice Chancellor Eubanks addresses audience



Group of Morehouse farmers



Corn tasting contest

Dr. Marshall Serves on Food Security Panel

Renita W. Marshall, DVM and Associate Professor, Animal Science, served on the Food Security Panel at the Farm to Table International Symposium in New Orleans August 2-4. Food security is a serious concern for all of us. Recent disasters have made it clear that distributing food is neither easy nor always possible. And it is sometimes impossible to anticipate what may be needed. This panel discussed these issues and how different solutions could be found.



Strain and Marshall at symposium

The Food Security Panelists were: Rashida Ferdinand, Founder & Executive Director, Sankofa Community Development Corporation;

Mike Kantor, Food Security Advocate, Second Harvest Food Bank; Renita Marshall, DVM, Associate Professor of Animal Science, Southern University Ag Center; Adrienne Rathert Mundorf, Program Manager, Prevention Research Center, Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network, Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine. Mike Strain, Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, moderated the panel.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Christie Gremillion Monroe, Livestock Show Manager and Assistant Specialist, Animal Science, participated in Beef 706 training, hosted by Texas A&M System and Texas Beef Checkoff, September 13-14. This class is designed for producers, researchers and extension personnel to understand the beef industry from a consumer's point of view. Beef 706 is a Texas Beef Checkoff funded program targeted to cattle and beef producers. Participants learned about beef quality and safety issues and how they affect their operations. By attending Beef 706, Monroe had a unique oppor-

tunity to see and experience the quality challenges facing the beef industry. Other information shared included factors affecting beef's palatability and ways to help participants utilize their herd's genetics, feedyard performance, and carcass characteristics. In addition, trainees worked in groups with five other Texas beef producers to fabricate a carcass with the help of a cutting instructor.

"Overall it was a very successful workshop and I look forward to using this information to assist producers around the state," Monroe said.



Monroe fabricating meat



Gray group fabricating meat

 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September 9, 16, 23, and 30: Health and nutrition education on “Combating Childhood obesity with Care givers as Change Agents” project, 4:30-7:00 pm in A.O. Williams Hall, room 191. For further details, contact Fatemeh Malekian at 225-771-0251.

September 10-12: Joint SU & LSU Ag Centers Food and Nutrition EXPO and Conference, LSU Lod Cook Conference Center, Baton Rouge. For further details, contact De’Shoin York at 225-771-2582.

September 11: “What’s In Tobacco” Workshop at Vision of Hope, Shreveport, Caddo Parish. For further information, contact G. Johnson at 318-429-7500 ext. 172.

September 12, Back-to-School Summit at the Blackham Coliseum, 2330 Johnston Street, Lafayette For further details, please contact Wanda Burke at 225-771-5184 or (337) 943-2410; via email at wanda_burke@suagcenter.com

September 16: 100% Tobacco Free Campus, SUSLA, Shreveport, Caddo Parish. For further information, contact R. Gilliam at gilliamrgilliam@susla.edu or 318-670-6000.

September 19: Secondhand Smoke Presentation, Council On Aging Parent’s Meeting, Clinton, East Feliciana Parish. Contact Verna Lee at 225-721-1802.

September 19: Dangers of Tobacco Use Presentation, Council on Aging Staff Meeting, Jackson, E. Feliciana. Contact Verna Lee at 225-721-1802.

September 20: Secondhand/Mr. Gross Mouth Display at Arcadia Library, Arcadia, Bienville. Contact E. Butler at 318-263-7410 ext. 12.

September 21: Secondhand/Mr. Gross Mouth Display at Crooked Creek Golf Course, Greenwood, Caddo. Contact F. Williams at Fwilliams@susla.edu or 318-670-6000.

September 28: Community Health Y Wellness Fair, Women’s Health Education Foundation, Baton Rouge. Contact Katrin Smith at Katrin.n.smith@gmail.com or 225-620-5324.

October 5: Obrien House Youth Festival, BREC Gus Young Neighborhood Park, Baton Rouge. Contact Tonia Escort at 225-344-6345 ext 331.

October 14: Secondhand/Mr. Gross Mouth Display at Crooked Creek Golf Course, Greenwood, Caddo Parish. Contact F. Williams at Fwilliams@susla.edu or 318-670-6000.

October 25: Community Day Event, Greater Arlington Baptist Church, Baton Rouge. Contact Gail Lamb at 225-356-5578 or nurselamb@att.net.