

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

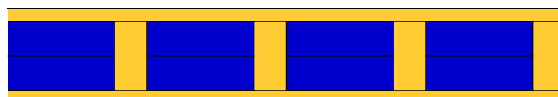
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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USDA Awards \$300,000 for Training and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern System,Leodrey Williams, Chancellor, Ralph Slaughter, System President, Tony Clayton, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, and the Agricultural Research Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center are provided to all persons regardless of race, national origin, or disability. © 2008 SU Ag Center.

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan announced Dec. 9, 2009 that USDA is awarding more than \$14 million in grants to organizations throughout the country that will provide training and assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center will receive \$300,000 in funding to support the Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute.

The “Institute” is a two-year course of study specifically designed to guide small, socially disadvantaged, limited resource farmers or minority farmers through the transformative process of becoming successful agricultural entrepreneurs, said Dawn Mellion-Patin, PhD, MBA, institute director and agricultural specialist. The institute currently has 33 participants and has graduated more than 40.

According to USDA, the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR) grant program enables socially disadvantaged producers to successfully acquire, own, operate, and retain farms and ranches, and to assure equitable participation in the full range of USDA programs. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice without regard to their individual qualities.

Generally, socially disadvantaged producers who participate in OASDFR-funded projects develop profitable new farming or ranching practices, receive loans more rapidly, increase their farm or ranch income, continue farming or ranching longer and are less likely to go out of business. This has been the case for the Institute graduates, said Patin.

Graduates have been appointed to Regional Advisory Boards; state and local Advisory Boards and Taskforces; invited to conferences, meetings and other speaking engagements; recognized as Small Farmers of the Year; and inspired to enroll in degree granting programs. One completed the Bachelor’s degree and two pursued and completed graduate degrees.

Sisters Diana Kimble and Malva Jones, current class participants from Louisiana were recently featured on the *eXtension* website. The article entitled “Hard Earned Land: The Kimble Family Farm” was authored by Lashunda Anderson, PhD, agronomy. To read the article, please visit: http://www.extension.org/pages/Hard_Earned_Land:_The_Kimble_Family_Farm

For more information on the Institute, visit: <http://aginstitute.suagcenter.com> or contact Patin at (225) 771-2242.

State Director of USDA Rural Development Visits Southern University

The Southern University Ag Center welcomed the new Louisiana Director of USDA Rural Development, Clarence W. Hawkins on December 17, 2009. During the occasion, the SU Ag Center Chancellor Leodrey Williams showed his support and noted that “we must do everything possible to give the people who are qualified and happy to live in rural parishes opportunities to thrive there.” Chancellor Williams added, “we are behind you all the way.”

The SU community including the system President Kassie Freeman along with representatives from other groups in the surrounding communities showed their support by braving the rain to be there.

In response to the congratulations, Hawkins assured the crowd that his “task is to pick up the baton and carry on, to change the paradigm, and make the philosophy a reality. Our task is to change the negative perception of rural communities and it’s just that simple. I’m serious about accountability and I’m serious about service. Service is the rent I pay to stay here. We must build co-operations and collaborations. My hope is that Southern University continues to grow and to serve,” said Hawkins.



LA Rural Dev. Director Hawkins



**SU Interim President
Kassie Freeman**



**Elsie Cyrus, former
Extension Specialist**



**L-r: VC for Ext Eubanks; Chancellor
Williams; LA RD Director Hawkins;
VC for Finance & Admin Brown;
CRSBD Director London; and VC for
Research Mellad**



**Director Hawkins, left, with
Chancellor Williams**



**Rev. Mack Hurst
St. Helena Parish native**



**L-r: Baker Mayor Harold Rideau, SU
Ag Center Chancellor Williams, and SU
Interim President Kassie Freeman**

Vice Chancellor to Serve as Louisiana Role Model, Featured on WBRZ

The 4th Annual New Orleans Style Jazz Brunch, held December 12, 2009 honored nine outstanding Louisiana Role Models. Among the honorees was Gina E. Eubanks, Ph.D., SU Ag Center vice chancellor for extension. They were selected by Baton Rouge Chapter of *The Links Incorporated* to serve as Louisiana Role Models for one year effective December 2009.

The Links Inc. is a national organization of accomplished, dedicated citizens who are active in the community.



Vice Chancellor for Extension
Gina E. Eubanks

Links are role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work toward the realization of making the name "Links" not only a chain

of friendship, but also a chain of purposeful service.

Eubanks' dedication to mentoring is also found in her service to the Big Buddy Program. On January 4th, WBRZ Channel 2 reporter Dana Hackett met with members of the Big Buddy program in Baton Rouge to strategize and invited the public to get involved. Eubanks and her Big Buddy service were featured on the Channel 2 morning show, 2une In.

To see a video clip of the gathering, please visit: <http://www.wbrz.com/home/>

Youth spread holiday cheer, learn emergency preparedness

The 4-H/Youth Educational Support (Y.E.S.) and Clover Buds from St. Helena Parish prepared food baskets for six elderly families in the parish at Christmas. The baskets consisted of mustard greens, sweet potatoes, canned goods, turkeys and green onions. The youth delivered the baskets to each of the six homes and took a photo with each family. The families were happy to receive food from the youth.

St. Helena Central Elementary students also learned basic emergency skills and how to react when faced with fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, explosions, warning signals, fallout protection, terrorism attacks, and other emergency situations. A total of 102 youth were reached in this project. The event was coordinated by Angela Myles, youth agent, St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes.



Youth spread holiday cheer



Youth learn emergency preparedness



Staff Activities

Angela Myles, youth agent, St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes, coordinated several activities with youth in her constituency. The youth harvested collard, mustard and turnip greens, cabbage, green onions, tomatoes, broccoli and cauliflower from their garden and took their produce home to share with family.

The early readers also used the LeapPad to enhance their reading abilities.

Youth Educational Support (Y.E.S.) students participated in St. Helena 4-H Cookery contest and did an outstanding job preparing their dishes. There were 25 youth participants in the contest.



Youth garden harvest



Youth development specialist Wanda Burke, left, demonstrates the use of LeapPads to youth on Family Literacy Night.



Cookery contest Winners

Sarah Sims, extension aide, Madison Parish, coordinated the 1st Thursday monthly Lunch & Learn program in Tallulah, December 3, 2009. The event featured “Food Safety Tips for the Holiday Season” with demonstrations on inexpensive gifts to share with family and friends. The guest speaker was Donna Lisa Crockett, Madison Parish Homeless liaison who presented “Don’t Forget the Homeless.”

In-service training for Madison Parish Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers was also held featuring “MyPyramid for Kids.”

Additionally, Sims conducted a DHS-Parenting-Literacy workshop on nutrition and childhood obesity.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

An Act of Kindness

Latonia Morrison-Frank, regional market analyst/developer, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives coordinated a winter drive to provide space heaters to citizens in three parishes. The start of 2010 came with an influx of inclement weather. Temperatures falling as low as 15 degrees hit communities across the State of Louisiana. Many residents found themselves facing freezing temperatures without heat or other means of keeping warm. When the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives was approached by one of its partners, Communities Uniting in Prayer and Service (C.U.P.S.), to help reach families and individuals in need, there was no hesitation. The Southwest Center and the C.U.P.S worked together to reach 38 families/individuals in St. Landry, Acadia and Evangeline Parishes. Each recipient was provided a complimentary space heater valued at about \$33 to help bear the freezing temperatures.

An act of kindness can go a long way in strengthening community relationships. Through this act, the Southwest Center has been asked to partner with a variety of home health care providers to assist in educating clients on family and human development.



Heaters distributed to the needy in three parishes

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
March 3, 2010	Basic Excel, PowerPoint and Word training	Greater Beauregard Chamber of Commerce, DeRidder	Latonia Morrison-Frank (337) 943-2410
March 9, 2010	Basic Excel, PowerPoint and Word training	LSU Mobile Unit Shoe Scene, Marksville	Latonia Morrison-Frank (337) 943-2410
March 18-20, 2010	Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Institute	North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro	Dawn Patin-Mellion (225) 771-2242
March 23, 2010	Basic Excel, PowerPoint and Word training	Ville Platte City Hall Ville Platte	Latonia Morrison-Frank (337) 943-2410