

# THE Chancellor's REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2019



**COHORT VII  
GRADUATION**

**NEW**  
partnerships

**Orlando F. McMeans**  
Chancellor-Dean

**Andra Johnson**  
Vice Chancellor for  
Research & Technology  
Development

**Dawn Mellion-Patin**  
Vice Chancellor for  
Extension & Outreach



**SU Ag launches  
FOCUS Show**



The official publication of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging

**POLISHED  
MAGAZINE**



SU Agricultural Sciences Alumni

# GIVE BACK to the Department

Lorenzo Bennett and William Singleton, Jr., both 2001 graduates of Southern University's Department of Agricultural Sciences, presented a \$900 scholarship to Macy Ceaser, a Senior Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Pre-Veterinary Medicine, on August 20.

Bennett and Singleton said they gave the scholarship because they wanted to assist students in the department and challenge fellow graduates of the department's Animal Science, Agricultural Economics, Agriculture Business, Plant and Soil Science, and Pre-Veterinary Medicine concentrations to reach back and do the same.

For more information on how to give to the Department of Agricultural Sciences, please contact Dr. Renita W. Marshall at [renita\\_marshall@subr.edu](mailto:renita_marshall@subr.edu) or call her 225-771-0252.



The official publication of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging

## POLISHED MAGAZINE

SU Ag Center's S.H.A.R.E. Program featured in Polished Magazine



photo courtesy of Polished Magazine

An article written by Dr. Renita Marshall, department chair of Southern University's Department of Agricultural Sciences and director of the Southern University Institute for One Health One Medicine, on the SU Ag Center's Southern Human-Animal Relationship Experience (S.H.A.R.E.) is featured in the current issue of Polished magazine.

The article details the objectives of S.H.A.R.E., which is an initiative under the Southern University Institute for One Health One Medicine. The program provides the community with the psychological and physical benefits of animal-assisted therapy, visitations, and interactions.

S.H.A.R.E. is composed of representatives from the Southern University Ag Center, Southern University Baton Rouge students, community volunteers, and veterinary practitioners.

Studies have shown that pet therapy can lower blood pressure, release calming endorphins and lowers overall physical pain.

The magazine is available on the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging's website, [www.ebrcoa.org/](http://www.ebrcoa.org/). The article also appeared on the world One Health Initiative group. It can be viewed at <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/>.

POLISHED is a quarterly publication produced by the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging. It is geared towards the interest of senior citizens in East Baton Rouge Parish and their caregivers.

For additional information about S.H.A.R.E., contact Dr. Marshall at 225-771-0252 or email her at [renita\\_marshall@suagcenter.com](mailto:renita_marshall@suagcenter.com).



# SU CENTER'S TV Program "FOCUS"

airing in several Parishes

The current edition of the SU Ag Center's TV Show, Focus: Insight on the Southern University Ag Center, has begun airing in Orleans, Ouachita and St. Charles Parishes as well as in Kenner, La.

The air times and channels for the show are:

#### •Orleans Parish

Channel: Cox cable 95

Air Date/Times: Tues., August 20th @ 5 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Thurs., August 22nd @ 5 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Tues., Aug. 27th @ 5 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Thurs., Aug. 29th @ 5 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

#### •Ouachita Parish

(Includes: Franklin, Caldwell, Morehouse, Richland Parishes)

Channel: Comcast Xfinity 75

Air Dates: August 20th — 25th daily

Times: 10:15 a.m., 1 p.m., and 10 p.m.

\*Everyday through Sunday, August 25th

#### •St. Charles Parish

(Includes: Destrehan, Des Allemands, Boutte, St. Rose, Luling)

Channel: SCP-TV (Cox Channel 6, U-Verse 99 and Streaming at, <https://www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/interact/scp-tv/watch-live>)

Air Dates: Saturday's indefinitely

Times: 12 noon

#### •Kenner, LA

K-TV Cox Cable channel 76 and AT&T 99

Air Dates: Daily

Times: 3:30 p.m.

Note: It will air for the next several weeks.

The show can also be viewed on the SU Ag Center's YouTube channel, here.



For additional information about the SU Ag Center's Focus Show, contact Dexter Newman at **225-771-2173** or email him at **[dexter\\_newman@suagcenter.com](mailto:dexter_newman@suagcenter.com)**.



# SU Ag Center Trains Ambassadors for Healthy Living at

# SARDI

**B**aton Rouge, La. – Nearly 40 youth were trained as Ambassadors for Healthy Living on Saturday, August 24, 2019 at the Southern Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI). As 4-H Ambassadors for Healthy Living, youth participants will help to guide their peers and communities, into living healthier lifestyles through nutrition, physical fitness, and public policy.

Workshops offered during the training included:

- **Wild about Leadership** – Knowing your leadership style will help you learn about collaborating for yourself, others and your community.
- **Navigating the Jungle** – Learn how to empower youth through the use of the HYPE Project Phase: Think, Learn, Act, Share and Evaluate.
- **Elephant Communications** – Learn basic communication skills that you need to know to be an effective local/state 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador. This workshop will include making quality video clips to market your 4-H program.

Youth participants represented local schools in East Baton Rouge, Orleans, St. Landry, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa Parishes.

For more information on becoming a 4-H member or becoming an Ambassador for Healthy Living, contact Kayla Fontenot in St. Landry Parish at 337.943.2410, Chelsea Hammond in Orleans Parish at 504.658.2900, or Nicolette Gordon in Tangipahoa Parish at 985.748.9381.



SU Ag Center's Community and Economic Development Associate Specialist, Gerald Williams held a meeting with Lionel Johnson, Jr., the Mayor of the City of St. Gabriel, on August 22.

During the meeting, which was held at the mayor's office, Williams, Johnson and Courtney Lawson discussed the development of several programs to assist the city in the coming months.

Williams said he will continue to work with Mayor Johnson as well as mayors throughout the state to provide economic development assistance to their communities.

For additional information on the SU Ag Center's Community and Economic Development initiatives, contact Gerald Williams at [gerald\\_williams@suagcenter.com](mailto:gerald_williams@suagcenter.com).



## **SU Ag Center's Gerald Williams meets with Mayor of St. Gabriel, LA**

### **SU Ag Center holds Graduation Ceremony for 7th Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute**

Fourteen small farmers from seven states received certificates of completion during a graduation ceremony for Cohort VII of the SU Ag Center's Regional Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute.

The ceremony was held on Friday, August 16 in the Cotillion Ballroom of Southern University's Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union.

Fourteen participants from Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, Texas and Ohio received certificates of completion from the year-long course.

Dawn Mellion Patin, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach at the SU Ag Center, served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony. During her presentation, Patin discussed how the leadership institute was developed and encouraged the graduates to help other small farmers.

"We expect you to share what you have learned in conversations with aspiring small farmers," said Patin. "We expect you to host field days, workshops, and pasture walks so others can see what you are doing," she added.

The Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute is a one year course designed to guide small, limited-resource and minority farmers through the process of becoming more competitive agricultural entrepreneurs.

The overriding goal of the Institute is to promote small and family farm sustainability through enhanced business management skills, leadership development and the utilization of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and services.



The Cohort VII regional graduates of the Regional Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute are:

Anthony Barwick, Ohio; Kay Bell, Texas; Keisha Cameron, Ga.; Mark Chandler, Va.; Debora Coleman, Miss.; Felton DeRouen, II, La.; Hilery "Tony" Gobert, Ga.; Royce Martin, Ala.; Lennora Pierrot, Ala.; Gregory Smith, La.; Brad Spencer, Miss.; Joy Womack, La.; Virgil Womack, La.; and Oliver Whitehead, Va.





# URBAN AG CERTIFICATION

SU Ag Center holds Sustainable Urban Ag Certification Program in Baton Rouge

Approximately 15 individuals participated in the Southern University Ag Center's Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certification Program.

One of the trainings was held Monday, August 20 at BREC's Howell Community Park in Baton Rouge in conjunction with Baton Roots Community Farm.

During the training, which was the third session of the certification's five-week training, participants received hands-on training on rainwater harvest, rain barrel construction, hydroponics systems, and an introduction to the use of drones in agriculture.

The intensive training series teaches participants how to use sustainable agricultural practices in an urban environment; with hands-on experience.

"This certification program teaches individuals who live in urban and rural areas how to be sustainable farmers by using the resources they have around them to farm in small spaces, rather than large open fields," said Marlon Ford, Ph.D., Urban Agricultural Specialist and program coordinator. "There are many communities that are food deserts with no access to fresh produce or farmers markets. This training provides individuals with the skills they need to grow their own vegetables and fruit organically," added Ford.

"The goal for us at the Southern University Ag Center is to not only provide our participants with the skills to help their families eat healthier but we want our participants to share what they have learned with others in their communities," expressed Ford.

Additional topics that will be covered during the series will include: Permaculture and the Environment; Irrigation and Composting; Small Scale Agriculture; Animal Husbandry: Poultry, Bees and Worms; Vertical Farming; Maximizing the Use of Land Resources and Infrastructure; Working with City Government within City Ordinances; Construction Techniques, Hoop Houses, Raised Beds; Organic and Sustainable Production and Combatting Diseases and Man-Made Threats.

The training was facilitated by Mila Berhane, Senior Research Associate and Dr. Marlon Ford, Urban Agricultural Specialist.

The training began on August 6 and will conclude with a graduation ceremony on September 3.

To date, the SU Ag Center has held Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certification programs in St. Landry, East Baton Rouge, and Livingston Parish, Rapides, Avoyelles, and Natchitoches Parishes.

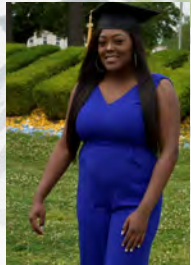
The Baton Roots Community Farm is a program which provides an opportunity for the Baton Rouge community to learn sustainable agricultural practices on an urban farm. It was developed

by The Walls Project to inspire health and wellness among all ages through hands-on gardening with an artistic environment.

For additional information about the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certification Program, contact Dr. Marlon Ford at [marlin\\_ford@suagcenter.com](mailto:marlin_ford@suagcenter.com).



# Chyanna McGee



Recent graduate Chyanna McGee attends graduate school at Penn State.

Chyanna McGee, a Spring 2019 graduate of the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources, is currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Plant Pathology; specializing in plant disease management at the Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania.

McGee said she decided to come to Southern University and major in Urban Forestry as a trial and error decision she made with her dad.

"My dad graduated from Southern University many years ago with a degree in Agricultural Economics. I wanted to be a teacher, but he insisted that I did Urban Forestry and if I didn't like it after my first year that I could change my major," said Chyanna. "He then took me to meet Dr. Zhu Ning, my departmental advisor, who then promised that I could be a member of her research team my first summer researching in Shenyang, China. I, of course, accepted the invitation and by the end of my freshman year I grew to love the Urban Forestry Department and also "The Ag Family," she added.

During her time at Southern, Chyanna has held numerous leadership positions ranging from serving as president of the Urban Forestry Club, to president of Southern University's Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Chapter, as well as Vice-President of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Along with the listed leadership roles she is also one of the founding members of Southern University's Society of American Foresters (SAF) Chapter. All of this was done while maintaining a 3.3 grade point average by the time she graduated.

She said her experiences at Southern will enable her to excel at Penn State.

"I had the opportunity to learn alongside bright young leader and even travel to conferences to meet industry leaders which lead me to internships and other opportunities." she said. I established a home at Southern University and was able to be a part of the "Ag Family," which opened the doors to graduate school visits and is solely the reason that I decided to continue my education. Southern University's College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences has molded me into the student, leader, and scholar I am today," Chyanna said proudly.

After receiving her master's, McGee plans to continue her education by working on a Ph.D. in Botany either at Penn State or another accredited university. She said her goal is to use her advanced degree to help sustain crop production and find ways to use medicinal plants, starting with a health/beauty line to add to her business, "The GirlZ CloZet."


Chyanna, who is a native of Baton Rouge, is the daughter of Theora Tyrone and Gerald McGee.








 P.O. Box 10010  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

 (225) 771-2242

 [suagcenter.com](http://suagcenter.com)

   @suagcenter

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER  
and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences  
P.O. Box 10010, Baton Rouge, LA 70813  
(225) 771-2242 • [WWW.SUAGCENTER.COM](http://WWW.SUAGCENTER.COM)

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