

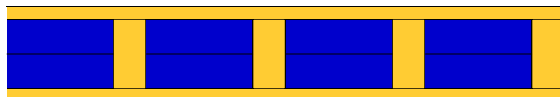
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER



CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Southern University

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SU System President Visits Ag Center

Southern University Ag Center

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Chancellor

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Vice Chancellor, Finance and
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The Southern University Ag Center welcomed the new SU System President, Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. to its campus on August 10. Dr. Mason toured the campus facilities along with his chief of staff, Ms. Evola Bates and the Executive Counsel to the President, Mr. Byron Williams.

During the tour, the Ag Center Chancellor Leodrey Williams showed Mason the great work that takes place in the 22 research laboratories, offices, and Experiment Station located in Baker. Dr. Mason was impressed by the research and outreach program facilities at the Center.

The SU Ag Center community, including faculty and staff

showed their support by giving Dr. Mason a hearty welcome.

The president learned about various aspects of the Ag Center, asked and answered numerous questions. The visit culminated in a working lunch.

In response to the warm welcome, Mason assured the employees that he will project the university in a positive light through improved technology use and reward for hard work. The president stated that our task is to change the negative perception of our university in the media and change the paradigm.



Ag Center Chancellor Williams, left, takes Mason on tour of facilities



Mason views Extension posters



Mason addresses Ag Center audience



At the Experiment Station, Mason learns about the mixed species (cattle and goat) research project



At the Livestock Arena, Mason learns about various youth outreach activities



In the sensory lab, Mason tastes goat meat sample

Ag Leadership Institute members appointed to USDA Committee

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced the appointments of members to Beginning Farmer Committee on August 12. Out of the 11 appointees, two of them are members of the SU Ag Center Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute. Luciano Alvarado of North Carolina is a graduate of the 2nd class and Frances Benton Gibson of South Carolina is a member of the Institute's 3rd class.

"One of the primary goals of the Leadership Institute is to develop leaders and advocates for the small farm community, and I am of the opinion that both of these individuals will be excellent rep-

resentatives," said Dawn Mellion-Patin, Agricultural Specialist and Institute program director.



Alvarado, 2nd class graduate



Gibson, current participant

To read the full story, please visit the link: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?content-only=true&contentid=2010/08/0405.xml>

Congressman Bill Cassidy's Office Visits the SU Ag Center

Mr. Curtis Philp from the office of Congressman Bill Cassidy visited the SU Ag Center and met with the administrators, August 17. This meeting was requested by Mr. Philp on behalf of the Congressman with the expressed purpose to discuss funding opportunities in research and extension.

Several issues were discussed including obesity, coastal restoration and food safety. Ag Center administrators were given the assurance that the Center would be accorded the opportunity to pursue any federal funds deemed appropriate for the continued growth and development in research and extension.

Present at the meeting with Curtis Philp were: Chancellor Williams, Vice Chancellor for Extension Gina E. Eubanks, Vice Chancellor for Research Kirkland Mellad, and Jason Hughes, Executive Director for Governmental and External Affairs.



Left-right: Dr. Eubanks, Mr. Philp, Dr. Williams and Dr. Mellad

St. Landry students inspired, go back to school

More than 1,100 eighth-graders from public, private and parochial schools in St. Landry Parish gathered in the Yambilee Hall in Opelousas to kick off the new school year, August 20. The annual SU Ag Center Back-to-School Summit was covered in the August 22 *Daily World* under an article entitled "Young people get the message."

In the words of the *Daily World*, "the Yambilee Hall in Opelousas shook to driving beats and the cheers of hundreds of students Friday during this year's Back-to-School Summit."

Referring to one of the popular event speakers, Torie Vidrine said, "I love Dr. Truth. He's so honest about everything." "It's not worth risking your life to have fun for one night." Vidrine is a student at Northwest High School.

Topics covered by the motivational speakers ranged from the dangers of drugs, alcohol, smoking, violence to premarital sex. The speakers were Rani Whitfield, MD, known as "Tha Hip-Hop Doc," Danna Andrus aka "Dr. Truth," Hollis Conway, Byron Starks, and Den Hussey.

Students received informational brochures along with pencils and other school supplies from various agencies ranging from the Girl Scouts to the parish Sexual Assault Center.

Event coordinator Edna Lastrapes, Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, said the program targets eighth-graders because they are at a critical stage in their lives. "They are too big to be kids, but too young to be adults. The choices they are making right now will affect the rest of their lives." She added that the forum provides a valuable resource by allowing the youth to learn and ask questions in a neutral environment.

Lastrapes noted that the program has been held in St. Landry Parish for the past 10 years and has proved so successful that it has since been expanded into Evangeline, St. Martin and Pointe Coupee Parishes. Each will host its own summit in the coming weeks.

The goal is to extend the program to the entire 10-parish region served by the Southwest Center in the near future.

This year, the event was a collaborative effort among the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, through its Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, the Louisiana Department of Education, and 30 other community-based non-profit organizations, state agencies, local municipal governments, and businesses.

To read the full story, please visit the *Daily World* at: <http://www.dailyworld.com/article/20100822/NEWS01/8220307/Young-people-get-the-message>



"Tha Hip-Hop Doc" addresses students



"Doctor Truth" addresses audience



Byron Starks interacts with students

Southwest Center offers summer cooking school to youth

The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives held its Annual Summer Cooking School in Opelousas July 13-15. Classes held from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. taught youth between the ages of 12 and 14 the art and science of cooking.

This year's cooking school concentrated on healthy cooking, eating and the importance of physical fitness. Ms. Larmara Hollier, Family and Consumer Science agent, Lafayette Parish, shared information with students on making healthy choices when eating at home, school and restaurants. She also emphasized the importance of exercising daily to maintain a healthy weight.

Students in the program prepared a meal for their families with the intent of eating dinner together on a daily basis.

A summer cooking school was also conducted in Lafayette Parish by Ms. Hollier.



Student practices stuffing chicken



Ms. Hollier, left coaches youth in the kitchen



Faculty and staff activities

On August 7, the Barksdale Annex Neighborhood Association held its annual “Back to School Bash” to deal with some of the Bossier Parish families’ burdens during these tough times. Over 100 bags filled with school supplies were given to families in the neighborhood and surrounding areas. Backpacks, resource information provided by extension, new and used school uniforms were included in the giveaway bags.



Katherine Ervin, holding bag, volunteers in back to school supplies distribution



Volunteers sort items for distribution

During the event, **Katherine Ervin**, SU Ag Center Parent Educator, assisted with supplies distribution.

Later that evening, the Harvest Temple Church of God in Christ, youth department, in Bossier Parish held its annual “Family Fun Day Back to School Bash.” Pastor Ted Scott and church family reached more than 200 families by providing them with school supplies.

SU Ag Center Extension resource information was also included in the package.

Following the supplies distribution, family members enjoyed door prizes, face painting, horse-back riding, blood pressure check, and refreshment.

During this event, SU Ag Center Parent Educator **Katherine Ervin** assisted with registration and distribution of school supplies.



Horse back riding



Blood pressure exam and face-painting



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
September 1	Basic Microsoft Excel, Word and PowerPoint training	Walmart Parking Lot St. Martinville	Latonia Morrison-Frank (337) 943-2410
September 2	Back to School Summit	Cade Community Center Cade, LA	Edna Lastrapes (337) 943-2410
September 10	Back to School Summit	William H. Scott Memorial Civic Center, New Roads	Edna Lastrapes (337) 943-2410
September 18	CoC-Fresh Campus Student Leadership Development Series Kickoff	SU Ag Center Baton Rouge	Linda E. Brown (225) 771-2242 x 284