

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

***AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER***



**Leodrey Williams**

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

**Presented to:**

**Board of Supervisors**

**Southern University and A & M College System**

*"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"*

**June 2013**

**Number 243-78**

## SU Ag Center Hosts National Conference

### *Southern University Ag Center*

**Leodrey Williams**  
Chancellor

**Adell Brown Jr.**  
Exec. Vice Chancellor/Vice Chancellor for Research

**Gina E. Eubanks**  
Vice Chancellor for Extension

**Linda Batiste**  
Director of Finance

**Christopher Rogers**  
Director of Technology Services

**Editors**  
Bridget Udoh  
Donna C. Badon

**A. O. Williams Hall**  
P.O. Box 10010  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

**Tel:** (225) 771-2242

**Fax:** (225) 771-2861

**Website:**  
www.suagcenter.com

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The Southern University and Louisiana State University Agricultural Centers jointly hosted the 2013 National Extension and Research Administrative Officer's Conference (NERAOC) in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference was held May 5-8 for more than 500 officials from land-grant institutions, experiment stations and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) registered attendees. This year's conference themed "Partners in the Journey" was critical and slated to assist participants in best practices of collaborating to reduce costs.

In his welcome address on May 6, Deputy Director for Food and Community Resources Dr. Ralph Otto, commended partici-

pants for work they are doing and also spoke about the FY 2013 Federal Budgets. Chancellor Bill Richardson, LSU Ag Center and Chancellor Leodrey Williams, SU Ag Center also addressed the participants and discussed the current budget situation in the State of Louisiana. Both chancellors urged attendees to take some time to tour the rich cultural and historical heritage in New Orleans and the surrounding areas and to help boost Louisiana economy by spending some money while they are here in the state. In her address on behalf of the Louisiana Commissioner for Agriculture & Forestry, the Associate Commissioner for Public Policy and Governmental Affairs, Dr. Carrie Castille, spoke about the significant

role of New Orleans ports in US agricultural exports. Dr. Calvin Mackie, author, mentor and motivational speaker in his keynote speech, urged the attendees to continue providing hope to all including the hopeless, underserved, socio-economically disadvantaged youth and families, despite budget uncertainties.

Session presenters from the SU Ag Center and their topics included: Oscar Udoh, USDA Success In Communities; Belinda Mack, Financial Reporting; Linda Batiste, Ethics: Don't Come to the Job Without It; De'Shoyn York, Eating Healthy on the Road; and Kenyatta Smith, 1862/1890 Best Practices in collaboration.



**L-r: Chancellor Williams welcomes conference attendees; Linda Batiste, Oscar Udoh, and De'shoyn Friendship present in concurrent breakout sessions.**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Goat Field Day Brings New People to the SU Ag Center

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Goat Field Day was held on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock arena. Approximately 60 producers and extension personnel made their way to Baton Rouge to learn more about the goat industry and obtain updates on the SU Ag Center's goat research. In addition to having a large number of participants from Louisiana, there were producers in attendance from Mississippi. The event was sponsored by the SU Ag Center, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and LSU AgCenter. Coca Cola Co. of Baton Rouge; NASS, USDA; Tri-Parish Coop, Slaughter, Louisiana; and Purina Mills LLC, St. Louis, Missouri made financial and material contributions for the event.

This year's speakers covered a variety of topics relevant to the goat industry including active goat related projects at the SU Ag Center, small ruminant parasite issues, goat meat processing and marketing, the status of the dairy goat industry, holistic health management practices, and more. The afternoon sessions were hands-on training in fecal egg counting, soil testing and FAMACHA<sup>®</sup> training and certification. The culmination and highlight of the event was a farm tour where participants had an opportunity to learn more about the ongoing sequential/mixed species grazing project at the Ag Center Experiment Station.

To contact the event organizer, Sebhatu Gebrelul, professor of animal science, please call 225-771-3841 or email [Sebhatu.gebrelul@suagcenter.com](mailto:Sebhatu.gebrelul@suagcenter.com)



Field Day attendees soak up information

## SU Ag Center-Communities of Color Network Sponsors Women Chef Show Off

The Communities of Color Network (CoC) was a sponsor for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Chef Show Off held at the Belle of Baton Rouge Casino & Hotel Atrium on Thursday, May 2, 2013. The CoC Network provided an educational tabletop display regarding the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. Literature and brochures were also available for participants.

This fundraiser was held by the IRIS Domestic Violence Center whose mission is to end domestic violence against women in the Baton Rouge area. Many people took part in the silent and live auctions and shared food from area artisans. The guests of CoC in attendance are community advocates and partners for healthier living in the Baton Rouge area.



Front row l-r: Bernice Carter, Gloria London and Myrtis Piper.  
Standing l-r: LaKeesha Giddens, Fatemeh Malekian, Linda E. Brown, CoC Director, Frankie Poland, CoC Regional Coordinator and Lori Lawson.

## SU Ag Center project helps community youth improve health

Neighborhoods through the Development of School Garden's project, on May 31, 2013 recorded the first of many segments that will encourage healthy living during the school year and the summer. Typically, youth engage in more sedentary activities during their "down time" than when school is in session. But, the Ag Center team had a different summer planned for a group of youth. Their partnership with Exxon Mobil's YMCA affords youth the opportunity to continue planting gardens and engaging in physical fitness activities during the summer to further reiterate the need to eat and exercise for healthier living. The skills that youth ages, 6-14 will learn are transferable to their homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

Mr. Ron Smith, Executive Director for Exxon Mobil's YMCA is an asset to the program and very "hands-on" with ensuring successful outcomes for participating youth.

This USDA/NIFA funded Capacity Building Grant project is directed by Tiffany Franklin, Extension Associate, assisted by Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate-Community Gardens. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is an agency of US Department of Agriculture.

"The SU Ag Center is delighted to partner with Louisiana Public Broadcasting to assist with marketing and publicizing our project! This is only the beginning of great things to come! Stay tuned," says Franklin.

Keith Crews, Cameraman and Dorothy Kendrick, Senior Producer, both from LPB, were excellent to work with. Also present at the taping was Kristen Hogan, Marketing Director, YMCA of the Capital Area.

For more information on the "Eradicating Food Deserts in Neighborhoods through the Development of School Gardens" project, contact Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin at 225-771-2775 or via email at:

[tiffany\\_franklin@suagcenter.com](mailto:tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com)



L-r: Kristen Hogan, Ron Smith, Tiffany Franklin set stage to record segment



Crews gets Franklin ready for taping.



Elwood and Franklin with participating students in the garden

## SU Ag Center Hosts Summer Youth Academic Enhancement Program

The Southern University Ag Center received 20 students to the 3<sup>rd</sup> “Academy for Academic Enhancement of High School Students in the Food and Agricultural Sciences” program on May 26, 2013. Chancellor Leodrey Williams, and Gina E. Eubanks, vice chancellor for Extension were among the administrators, faculty and staff of the Ag Center who brought greetings to the students and their families.

The five-week program, recruits students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade based on strict criteria to benefit from skill enriching activities ranging from classroom instruction to outdoor tours. Candidates were selected from East Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. The goal of this all-expense paid residential program is to prepare youth for college or agriculture related careers.

Participants, who will live on Southern University campus will hone their skills on American College Test (ACT) taking, engage in other activities such as field trips. At the end of the program, participants will receive community service certificate and \$500 stipend.

The “Academy for Academic Enhancement of High School Students in the Food and Agricultural Sciences” is a US Department of Ag/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funded project directed by Zanetta Augustine and Dawn Mellion-Patin. “This program has been successful in increasing ACT scores as high as six points, thus qualifying students for TOPS and enrollment at Southern,” Mellion-Patin said.

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a Louisiana scholarship program.

Participating students and their parishes: Ce’Layra Melodden, Madisson; Isaiah Smith, East Baton Rouge; Sankari Washington, Concordia; Devin Robbins, St. Helena; T’Quori McGahee, Morehouse; Justin Ward, Caldwell; Giavanna Leonard, Concordia; Victoria Nguyen, Jefferson; Henry Hardin, Franklin; Demetric Rollins, Franklin; Bianca Brewington, Franklin; Darron Mikell, Franklin; LeKedriyona Hawkins, Madison; Ebonie Isbell, East Baton Rouge; Morgan Lewis, St. Landry; Tyler Brown, St. Landry; Jessica Espree, St. Landry; Zoe Collins, Caddo; Taylor Franklin, East Baton Rouge; and KaDeidra Hootsell, East Carroll.

For further detail, contact Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2591.



Chancellor Williams welcomes students



Zanetta Augustine lays down the ground rules for students



Vice Chancellor Eubanks addresses students

## BOLD Launches Course for Faith-Based Leaders in Pointe Coupee Parish

The SU Ag Center has launched a series of classes for Faith-Based Leaders in New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish. Dana Isaac, grant assistant for Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD), launched the initial “BOLD For Faith-Based Leaders Class” on Saturday, May 4, 2013 in New Roads, attracting 13 participants.

The program’s main goal is to enhance and strengthen faith-based leaders and make them better equipped to serve their institutions and their communities. The classes will be held every Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, for 6

weeks at the Pointe Coupee Community Resource Center, New Roads, LA, from May 4 - June 15. BOLD is a statewide grassroots leadership development project under the direction of Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, assistant specialist for community and economic development. BOLD for Faith-Based Leaders is an extension of the BOLD project, focused solely on faith-based institutions, which will empower persons in leadership positions to become more effective in their roles. The ultimate beneficiaries will be individuals and families in the faith communities that they lead.

For additional information, contact Dana Isaac at 225-771-3902 or [dana\\_isaac@suagcenter.com](mailto:dana_isaac@suagcenter.com)



Isaac interacts with participants

## Food Desert Project Holds its First Garden Graduation Ceremony

The 1890 USDA Capacity Building Grant, “*Eradicating Food Deserts in Neighborhoods through the Development of School Gardens*”, directed by Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, held the first graduation and certificate ceremony. Since November, youth have been attending and participating in the school garden sessions and were awarded certificates of completion, which enable them to implement basic gardening strategies at home and in their neighborhoods. On May 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 80 certificates of completion were issued to students from the food desert school locations.

The celebration was led by Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate-

Community Gardens. Students were able to implement the overarching concept of the project, which is to “plant it, grow it, try it, like it”! Students from each of the schools developed gardens on the campuses of Scotlandville High, Scotlandville Pre-Engineering Academy and Southern Laboratory Schools.

The gardens have embraced the hands-on methods of learning by doing to properly grow their own food and promote and encourage healthier eating. Youth attending weekly sessions learned about food deserts and gained horticultural knowledge taught from the SUAR-EC self-produced Community Garden Curriculum.

Overall, the graduations were successful and each class celebrated by eating fresh salad, made from their own gardens! The teachers and students expressed their deep appreciation for the SU Ag Center’s project.



Hands-on experience

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

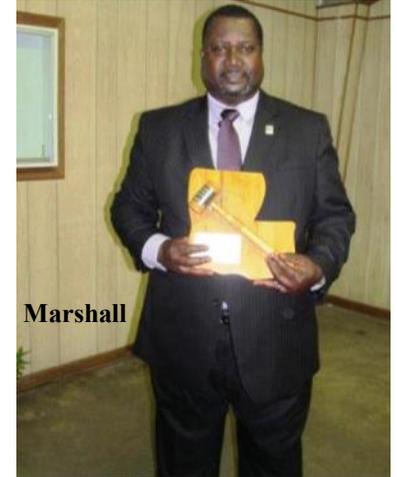
### Marshall to Serve as LCAAA President

Terrence Marshall, County Agent, East Baton Rouge Parish recently received the Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association (LCAAA) President's Gavel and Sounding Board as the incoming association president. He will preside over the association meetings for the coming year. The gavel was made from a block of pecan tree taken from the residence of Seaman A. Knapp, founder of Extension in Louisiana in 1909. It was presented to the association

in 1976 by Robert Verrett, Past President and John Jackson, then District Agent.

The LCAAA is a professional organization designed to give dignity to, and stimulate personal pride in the opportunity to serve the people of Louisiana in the important profession of agriculture and its related fields.

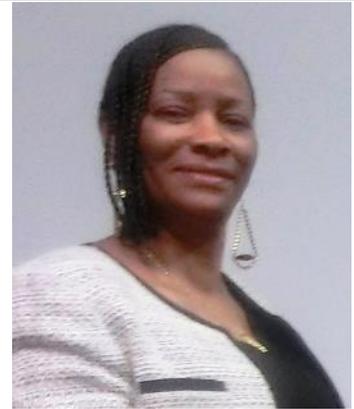
For further details, contact Terrence Marshall at [terrence\\_marshall@suagcenter.com](mailto:terrence_marshall@suagcenter.com)



### Robinson Receives DSA Award

**Carolyn Robinson**, Area Associate Agent, East and West Carroll Parishes, received the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) at the annual meeting of Louisiana Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences held May 1-3, 2013. The DSA is the highest award presented by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The

award recognizes members for leadership, educational program efforts and professional development. Mrs. Robinson will also be recognized at the Galaxy Conference in Pittsburg.



### Retirement and Resignations

Thus far in 2013, the SU Ag Center lost five employees in light of the looming budget reductions. Felix Mathieu, research associate, retired after three decades of service.

Daniele Coleman, finance department; Emily King, agriculture and natural resources; Kestee Weir, facilities, and Lisa Gray, animal science, resigned to pursue new opportunities.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**June 29:** Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute, A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**July 19:** Morehouse Parish Black Farmers & Landowners Association Field Day in Morehouse Parish. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**July 20:** The Wisteria Alliance - Food Preservation / Food Safety, A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

**July 27:** Louisiana Small Farmer Ag Leadership Institute, A.O. Williams Hall, SU University Ag Center, Baton Rouge, LA. For further detail, contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532.

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