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Director of Technology Services

**Editors**  
Bridget Udoh  
Donna C. Badon  
LaKeeshia D. Giddens

A. O. Williams Hall  
P.O. Box 10010  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813  
Tel: (225) 771-2242  
Fax: (225) 771-2861  
Website: [www.suagcenter.com](http://www.suagcenter.com)

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## CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

**Dr. Leodrey Williams**

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**Presented to:**

**Board of Supervisors**

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

## 4-H Program to Receive \$75,200 Award from the National 4-H Council

The Southern University Ag Center's 4-H Living Interactive Family Education (LIFE) National Mentoring Program has received an award in the amount of \$75,200 from the National 4-H Council, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

"This amount is based on your requested award amount and the projected youth reach in your submitted proposal, which the Council has reviewed and recommended for funding," stated Sally Miske, National 4-H Financial Management Director, in a letter informing the Ag Center of the council's intention to fund the program.



The SU Ag Center's 4-H LIFE program seeks to rebuild broken family units who have been impacted by parental incarceration. The 4-H National Mentoring project engages youth ages 5 to 17 in interactive family activities that include the incarcerated parent and the caregiver. The program is continuing its implementation in both East Baton Rouge and St. Landry Parishes.

For additional information about the Southern University Ag Center's 4-H LIFE program contact Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Program Coordinator, [tiffany\\_franklin@suagcenter.com](mailto:tiffany_franklin@suagcenter.com) or Milissia John-Baptiste, Program Assistant, [milissia\\_jbaptiste@suagcenter.com](mailto:milissia_jbaptiste@suagcenter.com), at 225-771-2242.

## Bright Futures Community Learning Center Starts a Fall Garden



Students at the Bright Futures Community Learning Center in Donaldsonville, LA were eager to get started planting their fall garden. Everyone played

their part from assembling the raised beds, shoveling dirt, planting, watering the plants, hauling dirt with the wheel barrow and snapping pictures to the clean – up of the area after the activity was completed.

Despite the threats of rain, the students completed the garden and are looking forward to taking care of and harvesting it. The students and volunteers planted red cabbage, green onions, strawberries, lettuce, and other fall vegetables.



Garden participants are taught Nutrition Education by Lisa Weber and will utilize the harvest of the garden in Nutrition Education classes, as well as, for after school snacks.

The garden was facilitated by Southern University Ag Center's Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate in Community Gardens; Lisa Weber, Nutrition Educator and led by De'Shoin York Friendship, Nutrition Specialist. The project's start date was November 5, 2014. Other adult volunteers included Joyce Gaignard, Michael Chatman and Harold Gaignard.

Bright Futures Community Learning Center, which is run by Donna Gaignard, CEO, serves an average of 60 students who are enrolled in summer programs, after-school activities and

## CoC Celebrates Great American Smokeout Day 2014

In celebration of the November 20<sup>th</sup> Great American Smokeout (GASO) Day, Frankie Poland, Regional Coordinator of the Communities of Color Network, encouraged the owner of Club Infiniti to host a smoke-free night of entertainment. The Baton Rouge club's owner, Brenda Harris, ordinarily permits smoking inside the facility during business hours. With reservations, and additional persuasion by her band, Terrance Bowie and N'Tune, she agreed. Throughout the night the patrons were reminded of the significance of GASO



Day--*Quit for a Day. Quit for Life.* The dangers of secondhand smoke were also emphasized in a presentation made by Poland, which was very well received by the patrons that totaled over 200 during the evening. Poland handed out tee-shirts with a smoke-free message and provided informational brochures on tips for quitting, what happens when you quit and cessation resource information. Because of the success of the event, Ms. Harris is considering additional smoke free Thursday nights.

## Family and Consumer Services Agent Works to Help the Community



Carol Sensley, Assistant Family and Consumer Services (FCS) Extension Agent for Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis Parishes, conducted a series of Parent Education classes at the Department of Children

and Family Services in Lake Charles, LA from November 17 – 20, 2014. During the classes, participants gained knowledge in promoting a positive environment, nurturing, and the 5 C's of parenting. Sensley also facilitated a meeting on November 18, 2014 for Dana Isaac, Extension Assistant in the Office of Community and Economic Development, to speak with Lake Charles residents about the



implementation of the Building Opportunities Through Leadership Development (BOLD) project. The meeting was held at the Central Library. On November 21, 2014 Sensley presented Nutrition

Education to 432 kindergarten - 2nd graders at Ward Elementary in Jennings, LA with the use of the OrganWise Guys curriculum. The presentation, which was held during a school assembly, taught the children the importance of being healthy from the inside out. OrganWise Guys brings the body to life via organ characters who teach what it really means to be smart from the inside out.

## SU Ag Center Staff Attends USDA Strike Force Meeting

Eual Hall, Business Development Outreach Specialist in the Center for Rural and Small Business Development and Ahmad R. Robertson, Assistant Area Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes attended a USDA Strike Force Meeting in Amite, LA on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at the St. Helena Community Center.



During the meeting, Hall discussed the services available to farmers and cooperatives through the Center for Rural and Small Business Development.

Robertson also provided information on the programs that are available for spring and summer 2015 vegetable production, horticulture advisory boards, the Master Gardner program, school garden projects, marketing produce to consumers, social media, networking with an advisory committee and record keeping on a farm.

## Santa's Healthy Living Workshop held in St. Helena Parish

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center held its first 'Santa's Healthy Living Workshop' on Friday, December 12, 2014 at the Forest Festival Park in Greensburg, LA.

SU Ag Center employees Dana Isaac, Extension Assistant; Frankie Poland, Communities of Color Regional Coordinator and Nicolette Gordon, Assistant Area Agent for St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes made presentations during the workshop.

Isaac discussed Faith-Based Leadership Development and how to become strong leaders in the church and community. Poland presented on the dangers of tobacco use and harmful chemicals found in tobacco products while Gordon conducted a hands-on healthy

snack presentation for the children. Teens between the ages of 13 -18 were also able to become Ambassadors for the Ag Center's Healthy Living Initiative for Youth during the event.



The BOLD Faith Based Leadership Development program is focused on providing leadership development to Faith Based leaders in their churches and communities.

The Communities of Color Network, an affiliate of the Louisiana Public Health Institute/The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living, provides support and technical assistance to African-American communities to ensure they are well-informed about the dangers of tobacco, and understand how to protect themselves from unhealthy exposure.