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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System, Adell Brown, Jr., Interim Chancellor; Ray Belton, System President; Leon R. Tarver II, 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.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Adell Brown, Jr.

Presented to:
Board of Supervisors
Southern University and A & M College System



125 Years of Providing Access
and Enhancing Opportunities



"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"

SU Ag Center Twitter Town Hall Huge Success SU

Extension specialists and researchers from the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center partnered with Agriculture is America, a national communications initiative aimed at highlighting the nation's land-grant institutions, to host a Twitter Town Hall on Thursday, December 3rd. The Town Hall highlighted the Center's innovative programs and statewide impact. Experts answered questions regarding the Center's multi-disciplinary nutrition and health programs as well as the Fast Track Gardening Program.

The goal of this Twitter Town Hall was to establish credibility and raise awareness about the AgIsAmerica brand while fueling interest and discussion surrounding land-grant universities and the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center. In partnership with the SU Ag Center, AgIsAmerica focused the event on the topics of Health & Nutrition, and the Fast Track Gardening Program. This resulted in experts De'Shoin York, Fatemeh Malekian, and Stephanie Elwood being able to engage with the audience by answering questions submitted during and prior to the event.



SU Ag Center specialists

While the majority of participants were centralized in Louisiana, users from across the United States were engaged during the event. Our topline metrics from the event include 1,531,716 impressions, a reach of 36,744 and 163 posts.

The SU Ag Center has a history of “linking the citizens of Louisiana with opportunities for success.” For instance, the Center's Fast Track Gardening program gives incarcerated youth the opportunity to use gardening as a tool to learn more about agriculture, nutrition and life skills.

A Twitter Town Hall, like a public meeting or seminar, gives the opportunity for a live question and answer session.

The SU Ag Center will continue to use communications tools such as social media to provide information to its clientele within the state and beyond.

Interim Chancellor Brown, Senator Discuss Solutions to Rural Poverty

SU Ag Center interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Jr., and Louisiana State Senator Francis Thompson discussed solutions to help eradicate rural poverty during a recent meeting at the senator's office.



Brown, left, discusses rural poverty eradication strategies with Thompson

Fall Gardening Workshop Draws Large Crowd of Gardeners

The near freezing morning temperature didn't stop almost 100 attendees from showing up for the Southern University Ag Center's Fall Gardening Workshop, held on November 24 in A.O. Williams Hall – SU Ag Center.

Prior to the start of the program, attendees were treated to smoothies and a juice breakfast bar made from vegetables grown in the Center's Urban Demonstration Farm. Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate at the SU Ag Center, provided the attendees with recipes to make the smoothies and juices at their homes during her presentation on Fall Season Planting and Smoothie and Juice Gardens.

SU Ag Center Vice Chancellor for Extension Dr. Gina E. Eubanks welcomed the packed crowd to the workshop and to the Southern University Ag Center.

For additional information about gardening, the SU Ag Center's Urban Demonstration Farm or to schedule a tour of the Farm, contact Mila Berhane, Stephanie Elwood, Dawn Mellion-Patin or Zanetta Augustine at 225-771-2242.

Visit <http://on.fb.me/1HZdPrS> to read more.



Gardening event participants shown indoors during the presentations, in the greenhouse with seedlings and in the model garden.

Video Release on 2015 4-H National Youth Science Day Event

Youth in East Baton Rouge Parish joined hundreds of thousands of youth across the world in leading the eighth annual 4-H National Youth Science Day experiment, which combined cars, calculators and cell phones to show how physics principles influence a pressing problem among U.S. teens.

This year's experiment was titled 'Motion Commotion' and the event attracted 105 participants.

Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin, Program Coordinator at the SU Ag Center has been working with youth on 4-H NYSDs for four conservative years. Video available at https://youtu.be/_n-R2LCczVY

Gifted & Talented Students Tap into the Arts to Bring Awareness to World AIDS Day

There is an old adage that says, "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words." On December 1, 2015 this statement was backed by three lyricists at Kentwood High Magnet School as they "Battle Rapped" during the SU Ag Center's "Dream big! End it," World AIDS Day Events in St. Helena Parish.

Contestants were challenged to develop an artistic piece that would bring awareness to their peers about ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic. Over 200 students filled the Kentwood High School gym anxiously waiting to cheer for their favorite lyricist.

AIDS Healthcare Regional Coordinator, Sashika Baunchand was on hand to educate students about the startling statistics on HIV/AIDS cases that were released the week of the event. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Louisiana ranks number four in the United States.

National television host and Comedian Tony King was on hand to shed truth and light on this taboo subject.

King reiterated that these statistics are not shared to scare them, but to help them make sound decisions when it comes to things that can ultimately affect their lives.



L-R - Chris Galmon, Leroy Harris, Kyla Bryant, Chritearra Brumfield, Javier Smith, Shy'Janae Hookfin, and Teanna Lee

Gifted & Talented Visual Art Students at St. Helena College & Career Academy also tapped into the arts in putting an end to this AIDS epidemic. Shy'Janae Hookfin, Javier Smith, Leroy Harris, Chris Galmon, and Teanna Lee were honored during the "Dream big, End it," Social Change Mural Unveiling Ceremony. These students were challenged to paint a social change mural that will bring awareness to dreaming big, and ending HIV/AIDS. Further detail available on [Facebook](http://on.fb.me/1OWXvsQ) at <http://on.fb.me/1OWXvsQ>

Urban Forestry Technical Field Tour Huge Success

An Urban Forestry Technical Field Tour, led by Urban Forestry Professor Dr. Zhu H. Ning was conducted on Nov. 7. This event was a part of the Society of American Foresters' 2015 National Convention, of which Dr. Ning was an organizing team member.

The field trip offered the participants first-hand information on Baton Rouge's urban forests and wetlands, Southern University Urban Forestry research projects, and tree preservation practices at Louisiana State University. The event started with a brief introduction of the Louisiana state horticulture and quarantine program by Dr. Ning's doctoral students and Mr. Ansel Rankins, Assistant Director, Horticulture and Quarantine Program of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. It was followed by a guided walk with historical information and design notes for the state Capitol Park/Arsenal Park area and the unique tree specimens around the capitol by Mr. Robert Seemann, Education Director of the Baton Rouge Green.



Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Professor and Urban Forestry Program Leader at Southern University gave the participants a detailed description of the SU Scott's Bluff Urban Forest Ecosystem Restoration Project funded by the USDA/NIFA

The highlight of the tour was the Southern University Campus - the site of the SU Scott's Bluff Urban Forest Ecosystem Restoration Project. Dr. Kamran Abdollahi, Professor and Urban Forestry Program Leader, gave the participants a detailed description of the project that is funded by the USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture. While touring the SU Ag Center, Drs. Ning and Abdollahi also presented to the participants the Urban Forestry Program research, education and outreach efforts.

The afternoon portion of the event started with the urban wetlands and forests nature walk at the Blue-Bonnet Swamp Nature Center guided by Ms. Claire Coco, the Center Director, who described the wetland species and ecosystem characteristics. At Louisiana State University, a Southern University Urban Forestry Ph.D. graduate, Dr. Fred Fellner, Assistant Director of the LSU Landscape Services, took the participants around the campus for live oak preservation site study. The event ended with a presentation of the arboriculture continuation education efforts in Louisiana by Dr. Halie Dozier, Professor at the LSU AgCenter.

We Stand as One Voice: Faculty and Staff Senate hosts “Meet and Greet”

Southern University Ag Center faculty and staff members met in Room 191 of A.O. Williams Hall on November 16 to discuss the Center’s newly formed Faculty and Staff Senate.

The new organization was established to represent every entity of the SU Ag Center in all of its separate categories: Research, Extension, and support units (Communications / Technology and Finance).

The board consists eight members: Dr. Dawn A. Mellion-Patin (President), De’Shoin York (Vice President), Dr. Janana

Snowden (Secretary), Dr. Kit L. Chin (Parliamentarian) and senators LaKeeshia Giddens Lusk, Carol Sensley, Antonio Harris, Gabe Gilbeaux and Dr. Ben O. Lukongo.

During the event, Dr. Patin stated that the Senate was created to allow all members of the SU Ag Center to have a voice in decision-making according to the rules and regulations of the Ag Center’s Handbook.

“The main goal of this meeting is to be a transparent organization and become a single voice,” said Patin. Visit <http://on.fb.me/1UeIVxg> for more.



L-r: Chin, Snowden, Patin-Mellion, York, Gilbeaux, and Lusk

The 4-H L.I.F.E. Program Hosts Painting with a Twist in Opelousas

On November 18, the 4-H L.I.F.E. (Living Interactive Family Education) program hosted its 'Painting with a Twist' event with Mrs. Rachel Jenkins of By You Painting.

Sixteen youth ages 8-15, along with five parents and five mentors, painted their own unique versions of jaguars which included the 4-H clover.

The event, which was held at the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives in St. Landry Parish

and led by Program Site Coordinator, Stacey Nevills and Program Assistant Damien Papillion, engaged youth of incarcerated parents who are active participants in the 4-H L.I.F.E. program. The youth enjoyed pizza and punch for refreshments.

This event is part of the monthly group mentoring activities for the ‘Changing How I Live Life’ (C.H.I.L.L) component of the project.

Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin is the 4-H L.I.F.E. project director at the Southern University Ag Center.



4-H L.I.F.E participants paint a jaguar during the program's 'Painting with a Twist' event at the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives

SU Ag Center's 4-H L.I.F.E. Project Hosts Popcorn and Movie Social Event

On October 28, the 4-H LIVING INTERACTIVE FAMILY EDUCATION (L.I.F.E.) National Mentoring Project hosted its 1st Popcorn and Movie Social event for the children of incarcerated parents. This event is part of the monthly group mentoring activities for the CHANGING HOW I LIVE LIFE

(C.H.I.L.L.) component of the project. The social was held in St. Landry Parish at the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives with 20 children, four parents, and five mentors in attendance.



Youth enjoy popcorn balls with Nevills at SCRI movie night

The children enjoyed chili dogs, chips, punch, and Halloween candy. They were also able to make their own popcorn balls to enjoy while they watched the animated Halloween movie “ParaNorman.”

Stacey Nevills, Program Site Coordinator, along with her assistant, Damien Papillion, hosted the event. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin is the 4-H L.I.F.E. project director.

Center for Rural and Small Business Participates in Health Fair

The Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) staff participated in a Health Fair on November 7 at Howell Park Golf Course, in Baton Rouge. The health fair was organized in an effort to alleviate poverty as SU Ag Center continues to provide useful information to our state residents. Business Development Specialist Eual Hall was on hand to explain the process of starting or expanding a small



Mr. Hall interacts with fair attendees at the CRSBD booth

business to health fair attendees. As participants visited the CRSBD booth, many were able to watch several video clips pertaining to starting, managing, or maximizing a business effectively.

Additionally, starting business information, brochures, and other literature were available.

CRSBD Provides Workforce Development Training for Small Business Owners



Ferriday training



Kentwood training



White Castle training

In November and December, the Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) provided Workforce Development training for small business owners in Ferriday, Kentwood and White Castle. The classes included the following topics: Computer Basics, Microsoft Excel for Business, Business Planning, Quick Books, Target Markets and Project Management. These trainings are the result of a partnership between the Center for Rural and Small Business Development of the SU Ag Center and Southern University Center for Economic Development in the College of Business. Individuals attended one training session each week. The instructions are tailored for persons who have never used a computer. Participants studied Excel activities that go beyond Microsoft basics. It included entering data, using formulas, formatting worksheets, modifying columns and rows, editing workbooks and printing worksheets, as well as, creating business financial statements. These business sessions are available to citizens who are currently in business and potential entrepreneurs.

On December 3, CRSBD Director, Gloria London and Business Specialist, Eual Hall attended a community meeting in Franklinton, LA with a core group of community activist representing Louisiana Alliance Cultivating Economic Success Collation (LACES) and Stronger Economics Together (SET) trainers. SET is sponsored by USDA Rural Development, in partnership with the Southern Rural Development Center and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center. It enables communities and parishes in rural America to work together in developing and implementing an economic development blueprint for their multi-parish region that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of that region. LACES, the group selected in Southern Louisiana is assisting and training non-profit organizations, community leaders, and interested citizens from East Feliciana, Washington, Tangipahoa, and St. Helena Parishes by focusing on the challenges, strengths, and weaknesses that exist in rural communities within the state. The process provides leadership especially for parishes with smaller populations. This leads to discovering ways to create, attract, and retain jobs by pursuing economic development blueprints for multi-parishes. Regions are being developed to join parishes together in order to assess, design, and implement plans that build on their assets and comparative economic strengths.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Publication

Krystle Washington, Extension and Community Development Specialist for the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives (SCRI), appeared on KATC News Channel 3's Good Morning Acadiana on December 8th to discuss the professional development and other free courses available through the SCRI.

Click the following link to view the video, <http://www.katc.com/clip/12058342/community-development-initiatives>.

Linda Batiste was interviewed by WAFB News Channel 9's 'The Big Xtra Hour' on November 20. Batiste, Director of Finance at the SU Ag Center and the Co-chair of the Center's Scholarship Gala, appeared on the morning show to promote the event slated for December 17 at L'Auberge Baton Rouge Casino and Hotel. Visit <http://bit.ly/1QH2Bts> for the video clip.

Dr. James McNitt, Professor Emeritus, Animal Science, has co-authored an article entitled "Effect of lighting on rabbits and its role in rabbit production: A review" in *Livestock Science*, an international journal published by Elsevier. His article appears in Volume 183 of the journal, pages 12–18, due out in January 2016. The abstract is available online at livestockscience.com.



Dr. McNitt

Elsevier is a world-leading provider of information solutions that help you make better decisions, deliver better care, and sometimes make groundbreaking discoveries in science, health, and technology.

Upcoming Events

January 20: SU Ag Center's CHEF Camp will conduct healthy food demonstration for the grand opening of a new Walmart location in Calcasieu Parish. The event will highlight our CHEF Camp youth as they showcase their food demonstration

skills, sponsored by Walmart. The event will take place on January 20th, 2016 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. For further details, contact Carol Sensley, Assistant Area Agent-FCS/Calcasieu & Jefferson Parishes at 337-475-8812.