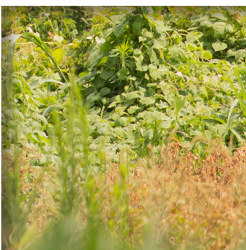
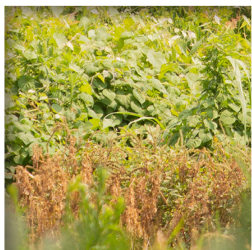
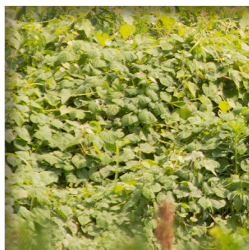
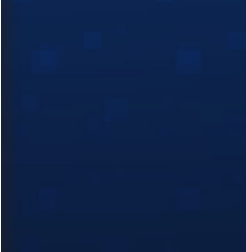
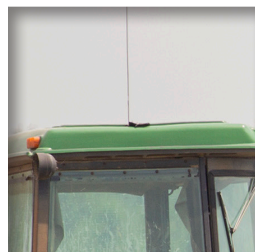


SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY **AG CENTER'S**

SEEDS OF *Success!*

A Monthly Newsletter of the Southern University
Ag Center, College of Ag, and Chancellor's Report

VOLUME 23 | NO. 3 | MARCH 2025



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D.

Chancellor-Dean

OFM



AG LEADERSHIP



C. Reuben Walker, Ph.D.

*Executive Vice Chancellor/
Director of Development:
SU Agricultural, Research and
Extension Center Special Projects*



Renita W. Marshall, D.V.M.

*Vice Chancellor, Academics
& Student Support Services/
Associate Dean*



Marlin Ford, Ph.D.

*Interim Vice Chancellor,
Extension and Outreach*



Katara A. Williams, Ph.D.

*Vice Chancellor, Institutional
Advancement and External
Relations*



Clyde Bagley, Ph.D.

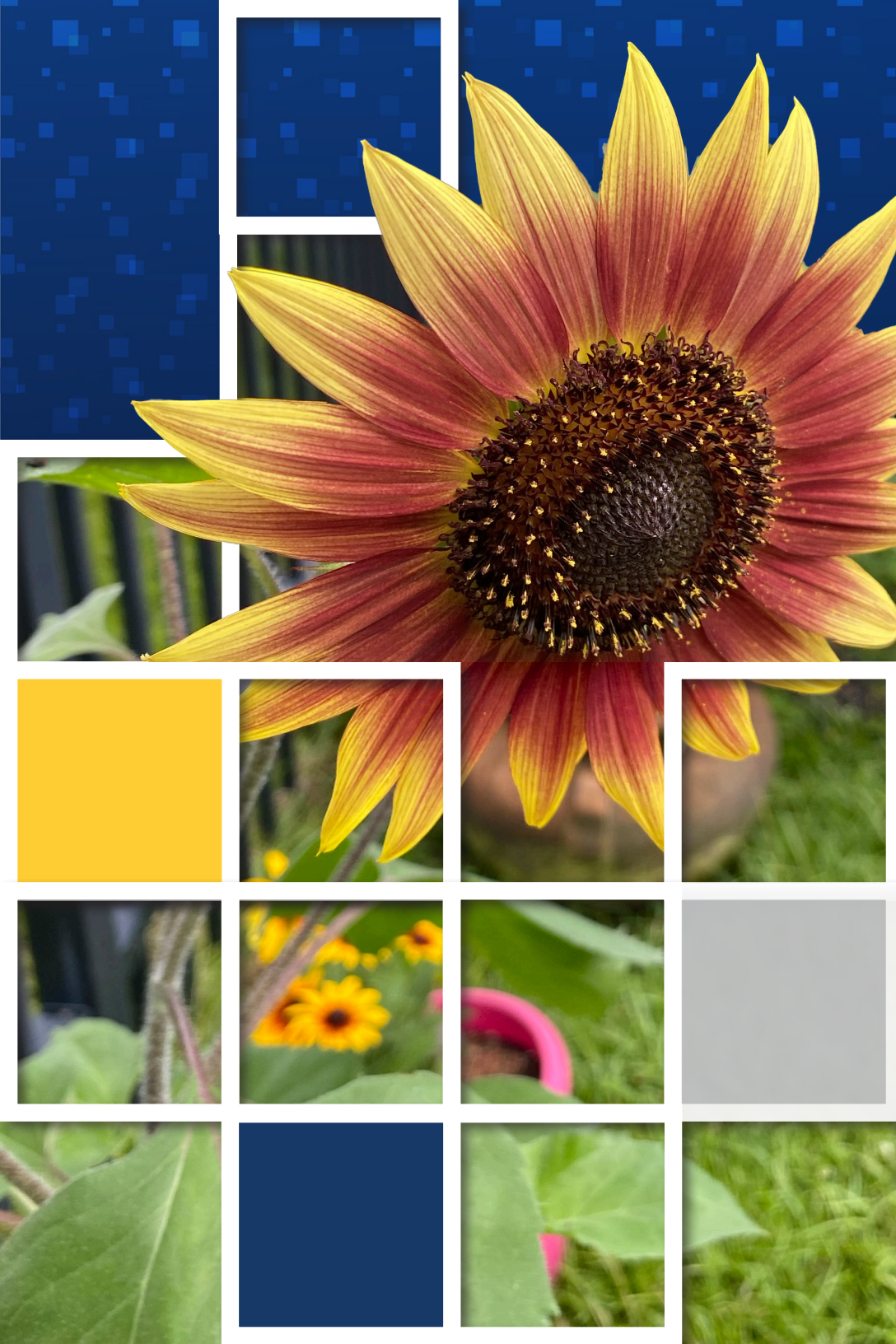
*Vice Chancellor,
Research*



Brunetta Gamble-Dillard, MBA

*Vice Chancellor,
Finance & Administration*





**SU College of Ag Students Participated
in Super Bowl LIX Events**

4-5

**SU College of Ag Students Hold a Fashion Design Exhibit During
the Louisiana Art & Science Museum's Art After Hours Event**

6

**College of Ag Ambassadors and SU Ag Center
NextGen Global Scholars AG-Spire to Greatness
With a Black History Month School Tour**

7

**The College of Ag Is Accepting Applications
For Its Summer BAYOU Program**

8

**The Southern University Ag Center
Honors the Life of James Cliff Archie**

9

**SARDI Teaches Sustainable Ag and
Agricultural Career Paths To Students**

10

SARDI Holds Senior's Day Out Event

11

**The SU Ag Center Uses Its Vineyard to Research
Grapevine Quality, Pest and Disease Management,
and Wine Production Techniques**

12-13

SU Ag Center's Focus Show

14



SU College of Ag Students Participated In Super Bowl LIX Events



Twelve Southern University College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences students had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in Super Bowl LIX events.

The students, who are members of the Southern University chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), the Southern University Dietetic Internship Program, and student scholars with the 1890 Center of Excellence (COE) at Southern University, participated in the Super Bowl's Taste of the NFL 2025 on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

The event was an exclusive culinary venue that brought together top chefs, current and retired professional athletes, and food lovers for a one-of-a-kind dining experience. The MANRRS and COE students served as hosts for the event and worked closely with Ticketmaster, ensuring a smooth and efficient entry for attendees, directing special guests, and assisting the stage manager, chefs, and vendors at the culinary stations.

The Dietetic Interns worked alongside renowned chefs and contributed to various aspects of meal preparation and service, ensuring guests enjoyed a flawless culinary experience. Each intern took on a specific role, from ingredient preparation and plating to logistics and food safety monitoring. Their hands-on involvement allowed them to apply their classroom knowledge in a real-world setting while networking with some of the biggest names in the industry.



“This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said one intern. “Being able to work side by side with celebrity chefs and see the level of precision and teamwork required at an event like this was both inspiring and educational.”

“The Taste of the NFL was not only a premier food event but also a platform that promoted food security and healthy eating,” stated Alexis Motley, SU Dietetic Internship Director/Instructor. “For Southern University’s Dietetic Interns, it was more than just an internship opportunity—it was the fulfillment of a dream, reaffirming their passion for food service and nutrition. This experience marks a significant milestone in their journey toward becoming future leaders in the field of dietetics, and Southern University is proud to have had its interns shine on such a grand stage,” added Motley.

In addition to the students' participation in the Taste of the NFL, the Southern University Ag Center donated 100 lbs. of frozen ground SUN beef and 15 lbs. of short ribs. These proteins were cooked by the chefs in dishes such as Chili Cheeseburgers with Fritos and West Indies Short Ribs.

The following students participated in the Taste of the NFL 2025:

MANRRS

Sterling Brown, a senior majoring in Agricultural Business

Bryson Armstrong, a junior majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Destyne Howard, a graduate student obtaining a master’s in Urban Forestry



Darin Broussard, a junior majoring in Plant and Soil Sciences

Te'Mya Robins, a sophomore majoring in Agricultural Economics

Kennedy Hughes, a junior majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Jakari Brown, a sophomore majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Bennie Loyd, a senior majoring in Plant and Soil Science

Dr. Janana Snowden, Director of the Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants/ MANRRS Advisor (Chaperone)

Chianti Primus, SU Ag Center/MANRRS Co-Advisor (Chaperone)

1890 Center of Excellence

J'Me Bryant, a senior majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Dietetic Internship Program

Kay Teasett, a graduate student obtaining a master’s in Dietetic Internship

Jhimere Stevenson, a graduate student



obtaining a master’s in Dietetic Internship

Mohammed Absuabi, a graduate student obtaining a master’s in Dietetic Internship

Alexis Motley, SU Dietetic Internship Director/Instructor (Chaperone)

The Southern University Human Jukebox Marching Band and the Fabulous Dancing Dolls also performed during the Super Bowl’s pre-game show on Feb. 9, 2025. Approximately 12-15 of the band’s members, including a dancing doll, are also CAHES students.



SU College of Ag Students Hold a Fashion Design Exhibit During the Louisiana Art & Science Museum's Art After Hours Event



The Southern University College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Science's (CAHES) Fashion Merchandising, Design, and Textiles (FMDT) program, along with the SU Ag Center's Fashion and Business Laboratory (The FAB LAB), presented The Essence of Egypt, a pop-up exhibit on Feb. 20, 2025 at The Louisiana Art & Science Museum (LASM) in Baton Rouge.

The one-night exhibit was a part of monthly LASM's Art After Hours event. The exhibit featured a collection of custom-made designs inspired by Ancient Egyptian culture, created and curated by Southern University Fashion Students Ja'Neice Allen, Amaya Johnson, Kennedy Phillips, Olivia White, and Kayla Youngblood under the direction of Dr. Samii Kennedy Benson, Chair of the CAHES Department of Human Sciences.

"We are honored and excited for our students to be a part of this event to showcase the talent and creativity that Southern has to offer," expressed Dr. Kennedy Benson. "This opportunity not only highlights the artistry of these young designers in the making but



also celebrates the beauty and cultural significance of Ancient Egyptian design," she added.

The LASM event celebrated the museum's yearlong exhibition, Discoveries on the Nile: Exploring King Tut's Tomb and the Amin Egyptian Collection. A panel discussion on Appreciation Versus Appropriation: The Art of Ancient Egypt, followed a reception for the exhibition and the pop-up fashion design exhibit. The panel discussion and reception were generously sponsored by the La Capitale (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

After the panel discussion, visitors were invited to explore

the exhibition along with LASM's Ancient Egypt Gallery, which featured a 2,300-year-old Ptolemaic-era mummy that was acquired into the LASM collection 60 years ago. Discoveries on the Nile, an exhibition in partnership with art collector Giovanni Amin, features certified reproductions of artifacts from the tomb of King Tutankhamun and authentic Egyptian funeral masks.

Information for this story was provided from the release LASM and La Capitale (LA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated to Host Appreciation Versus Appropriation, The Art of Ancient Egypt by Marion Mayfield.

College of Ag Ambassadors and SU Ag Center NextGen Global Scholars AG-Spire to Greatness With a Black History Month School Tour



The CAHES Ambassadors and SU Ag Center NextGen Global Scholars brought stories to life as they read to the children at the Southern University Child Development Laboratory on Feb. 4, 2025 for the AG-Spire to Greatness: Black History Month School Tour.

Through storytelling, these students are inspiring the next generation to embrace agriculture, history, and the power of education.



The College of Ag Is Accepting Applications For Its Summer BAYOU Program



2025 SUMMER PROGRAM JUNE 1-8 · SU CAMPUS

Applications are now open for the Southern University College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) Summer Program.

The program targets rising high school seniors who have completed 11th grade and graduating seniors (incoming college freshmen) and provides first-hand knowledge about career opportunities in Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Business, or the natural sciences.

The 2025 BAYOU Summer Program will be held June 1 - 8, 2025 on the Southern University campus. Participants will take part in campus and departmental tours, industry excursions, immersion in a collegiate classroom environment, and laboratory experience in the form of a short-term research project.

To apply to the program, applicants must:

- Have completed the 11th grade with a minimum GPA of 2.5. Graduating seniors that are interested in agricultural, family and consumer sciences, business, or the natural sciences and have an ACT (SAT equivalent) composite score of 18 and above, or High School GPA of 2.5 or greater, or rank in the top 50% of their high school graduation class and require no more than one remedial course.
- Submit high school transcript
- Submit ACT/SAT scores (composite 18 or SAT equivalent)
- 300-500 word essay about your career goals and aspirations (see application for details)

The application deadline is April 1, 2025. To apply, visit, <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/bayou-summer-program>.

For additional information contact, bayou@suagcenter.com.



The Southern University Ag Center Honors the Life of James Cliff Archie



As the Southern University Ag Center celebrates its 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show, we honor the life of James Cliff Archie, former Livestock Show Director.

Archie exhibited cattle in the 2nd Livestock Show and never missed a show, except when serving in the Army. He attended Southern University earning a bachelor's and a master's degree in agriculture sciences.

In 1969, he became a joint employee of LSU and Southern University serving as Southern's Livestock Show Director. He would serve in this position for almost 40 years until his retirement in 2006.

Under Archie's leadership, the Southern University Livestock Show became more diverse and continues to serve as a strong outreach arm of the University.

He worked alongside small farmers assisting them with their livestock and helped countless youth obtain 4-H grants and livestock loans to help with animal projects. He also helped numerous young men and women with entrance to college by calling in favors to allow students a few extra days to pay their fees, transporting students who needed rides from their homes to Southern's campus, granting students jobs to help offset the cost of tuition, and even loaning a few dollars to those who promised to repay him.

One of his greatest accomplishments while serving as the Livestock Show Director was the construction of the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Show Arena where the livestock shows are held today.

The Southern University Ag Center memorialized Mr. Archie's legacy by naming the road leading to its Agricultural Experiment Station the James C. Archie Drive.

SARDI Teaches Sustainable Ag and Agricultural Career Paths To Students



The Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute's (SARDI) Director, Antonio Harris, and Community and Youth Outreach Specialist, Heather D. Bob, visited Lawtell Elementary School and Washington Career and Technical Center (WCTC) on February 5, 2025, to discuss the importance of sustainable agriculture within their communities and potential career paths that are offered within the field of agriculture.

Under the leadership of Arachel Ventress, JAG students at Lawtell Elementary will be able to plant, grow, and consume things from their school gardens and poultry broilers that will be provided by SARDI. The students are very excited and motivated to get things started.

At the WCTC, Mrs. Ciera St. Romain Gorrel's students learned the direct correlation between the components of agriculture and how it connects to the aspects of the hospitality industry. They also looked at different career paths in agriculture that are available to them upon their completion of high school. SARDI will provide WCTC with new and revitalized school gardens.

SARDI is on the move to ensure that the students of St. Landry Parish are well-diverse in the field of agriculture.



SARDI Holds Senior's Day Out Event



The Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development Institute (SARDI) hosted Senior's Day Out on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, welcoming 60 seniors from St. Landry Parish. The event provided information on medical benefits, Medicare fraud, food demonstrations, and current SARDI programs. The event concluded with Bingo, prizes, and giveaways.

SARDI will hold its Senior's Day Out initiative on a quarterly basis to keep seniors informed and educated.

SARDI is a satellite campus of the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center.

The event was supported by Wellcare, Senior Medical Patrol, Centerwell Senior Primary Care, Louisiana Hospice & Palliative Care, Med Express Ambulance Service, Southern University Center of Excellence, Second Harvest Food Bank, Agromen Inc., Chase Bank, Tony Chachere's and State Representatives.

For additional information on this initiative contact Kayla Fontenot, Assistant Area Agent at kayla.fontenot@suagcenter.com.



The SU Ag Center Uses Its Vineyard To Research Grapevine Quality, Pest and Disease Management, and Wine Production Techniques



The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SU Ag Center) has established a research and demonstration vineyard dedicated to the science, cultivation, and management of grapevines, with a primary focus on wine grapes. This vineyard, established in March 2020, serves as a key research site for studying Pierce's Disease (PD)-tolerant American, French-American hybrid bunch grapes, and Muscadine grapes in Louisiana.

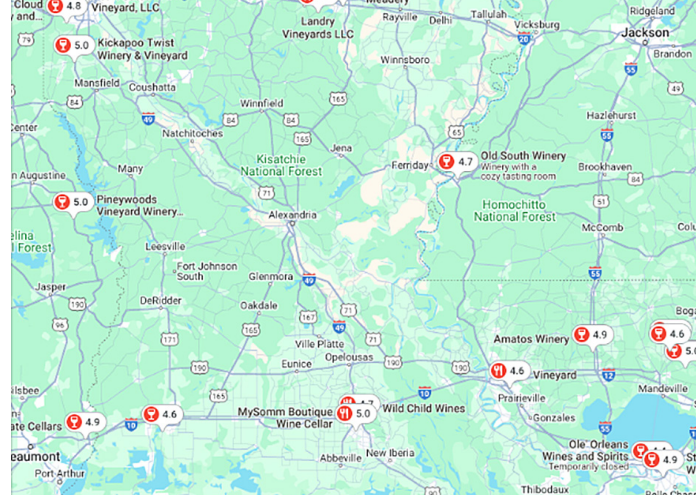
Louisiana's Growing Wine Industry

Louisiana's wine industry continues to expand, with nine operational vineyards and wineries producing wines from hybrid grapes such as Blanc Du Bois, Crimson Cabernet, and Lenoir, as well as Muscadine grape varieties like Noble and Carlos. The SU Ag Center plays a critical role in supporting this industry by researching factors that affect grapevine quality, pest and disease management, and wine production techniques.

In addition to its research initiatives, the SU Ag Center aims to educate and promote Louisiana's wine industry, as many consumers remain unaware of the state's capabilities in grape and wine production. The Center's viticulture program seeks to raise consumer awareness and appreciation of wines made from Southern-grown grapes, helping to elevate Louisiana's presence in the wine market. Expanding grape production in Louisiana will enhance the existing wine industry while fostering the creation of new vineyards and wineries. This growth translates into significant economic and educational impacts at the local, state, and national levels.

Viticulture Research and Student Engagement

The SU Ag Center's viticulture research program also plays a vital role in academic advancement by providing assistantships and stipends for undergraduate students in the College of Agricultural, Human, and Environmental Sciences (CAHES). This initiative has sparked student interest in



horticultural research, viticulture, and small fruit production.

The research team, led by the Project Director, focuses on core areas such as:

- Understanding vine growth cycles and their impact on fruit quality.
- Examining soil composition and management practices to optimize grape production.
- Developing methods to prevent and control vineyard pests and pathogens.
- Studying winemaking (enology) to enhance the quality of wines produced from local grapes.

Collaborative Research and Industry Partnerships

The viticulture program has successfully secured USDA funding, strengthening research capacity and fostering collaborations with other land-grant universities. These partnerships provide valuable opportunities for students and faculty while enhancing the level of viticulture research conducted at the SU Ag Center.

The Ag Center continues to work with well-established enology and viticulture programs to educate students, grape growers, and vintners on modern practices and techniques. Through these collaborations, the program seeks to improve the quality of Louisiana-produced wine, making it more competitive in regional and national markets.

Future Directions and Industry Impact

Looking ahead, the SU Ag Center aims to expand its research on grape varieties and sustainable vineyard management techniques. By incorporating precision agriculture tools to detect pests and pathogens, fruit quality, and soil health monitoring, researchers will enhance their ability to optimize vineyard productivity and quality. Additionally, outreach initiatives, including workshops, field days, and consumer education campaigns, will further promote the growth and recognition of Louisiana's wine industry.

With the continued efforts of the SU Ag Center's viticulture research program, Louisiana's wine industry is poised for growth, offering new economic opportunities, increased agricultural sustainability, and enhanced consumer appreciation for locally produced wines.

For additional information on grapes, vineyard operations, and viticulture, visit the vineyard at the SU Ag Center's Horticultural Farm and contact, Dr. Devaiah Kambiranda, at devaiah.kambiranda@sus.edu.



SU AG

FOCUS INSIGHT

ON THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AG CENTER

The latest episode of the SU Ag Center's Focus Show is now streaming. The program is built to inform, educate, and motivate people from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Tune in to gain knowledge about health, the environment, agriculture, and much more!

Hosted by:
Dexter "Dex" Newman

TUNE IN TO THE FOCUS SHOW AT:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdSPcKvKDRE>



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences is an entity of the Southern University System, Orlando F. McMeans, Chancellor-Dean, Dennis J. Shields, System President, Tony Clayton, Esq., Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences are provided to people of all ages regardless of race, national origin, or disability.

©2025 Produced by SU Ag Center's Office of Communications, Technology & Advancement



P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813



(225) 771-2242



www.suagcenter.com



@suagcenter



@su_agcenter

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY & ADVANCEMENT

Katara A. Williams, Ph.D.

*Vice Chancellor, Institutional Advancement
and External Relations*

LaKeeshia Giddens Lusk, MA

Communications Coordinator

Clourth L. Wilson Jr., MS-IT

Director of Technology

Allison Ezidore-Tassin, MBA

Creative Specialist/Graphic & Digital Designer

Lauryn M. Jackson, BA

*Electronic Content Development/
Communications Specialist*

Robert L. Easley, Jr., MS

Director of Advancement

D'Andrea Lee, M.Ed.

*Special Assistant for
Stakeholder Engagement*

Dexter D. Newman, MA

Video Production Specialist

Devender Rapolu, Ph.D.

Network Database Admin

