

CHANCELLOR'S ^{MC}REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER, VOL. 21, No. 10 | OCTOBER 2022



LA Living Legends Honored during Small Farmers Conference, Pg. 5



* EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP *

ORLANDO F. MCMEANS, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR-DEAN

CALVIN R. WALKER, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE VICE - CHANCELLOR
PROFESSOR OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

RENITA W. MARSHALL, D.V.M.
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
ACADEMICS AND STUDENT SUPPORT
SERVICES/ ASSOCIATE DEAN

DE'SHOIN A. YORK, PH.D.
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

JOSE U. TOLEDO, PH.D.
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT

BRUNETTA GAMLE-DILLARD
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
FINANCE

KATARA A. WILLIAMS, PH.D.
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS

SU Ag Center participates in the inaugural A&M Showcase for Middle & High Schoolers



The Southern University Ag Center and Southern University, along with Louisiana State University and the LSU Ag Center came together at the Raising Cane's River Center on September 7, 2022, to co-host the A&M Showcase for middle and high school students from the nine parish capital region.

Approximately 2,000 students attended the event, which was held to promote awareness and access to college ahead of the historical football game between Southern University and LSU on September 10.

"The purpose of the overall slate of events is to demonstrate that Southern University and LSU bring so much more to this community beyond athletics, specifically football. The A&M Showcase was held to introduce what I like to call the future college scholars," said Brandon Smith, event organizer and assistant vice president of strategy and community relations at LSU.

"They are 8th and 9th graders right now, but they will be applying to one of our campuses very soon and we can't assume that because they live in the Greater Baton Rouge Area's nine parish region, they have been to the campuses of Southern University or LSU. Thousands of our children have never been to either one of our campuses," stated Smith. "Athletics is a great ambassador for the universities, but we want to be more intentional by letting these future college scholars know that we offer so much more than that and we are here to spark their intellectual curiosity today," he added.

The showcase included more than 100 exhibits featuring information on many of the universities' majors and programs. This event was one of several planned to demonstrate the universities' partnership leading up to the September 10 game.

"LSU and Southern University have already been partnering and



what we realized is that we need to do a better job of telling our story about how our ag centers work together, how our Colleges of Education have been collaborating, and how our faculty have been conducting research together,” said Smith.

Additional events held during the week included a “Coffee & Conversation” academic roundtable with Southern University Provost Bijoy Sahoo and LSU Executive Vice President & Provost Roy Haggerty Southern’s Valdry Center for Philanthropy on September 8th.

The two universities co-hosted a leadership conference with the Baton Rouge Mayor’s Office and the U.S. Small Business Administration at the Capitol Park Museum on September 9. The conference was designed to empower current and aspiring business leaders from both institutions and included keynote speakers from LSU and Southern University alumni in business, including Resilia CEO Sevetri Wilson, SBA Region VI Administrator Ted James, and Raising Cane’s CEO Todd Graves.

Clourth Wilson appointed Director of Technology at the SU Ag Center

Clourth Wilson has been named the Director of Technology at the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS). The appointment was approved by the Southern University Board of Supervisors during its Sept. 16 board meeting.

Wilson, who currently serves as the Assistant Director of Information Technology for the Southern University System and Adjunct Professor in Southern University’s Department of Computer Science for online courses, filled the position on Oct. 1, 2022.

As Director of Technology, Wilson serves as the Chief Information Technology Officer and is responsible for the implementation of new and existing technology to support current and future initiatives at the

SU Ag Center and the CAFCS.

He works in collaboration with the Center’s leadership team in providing leadership, direction, and guidance to staff, provides primary oversight in the coordination of the daily technology support operations for the Ag Center and the CAFCS, manages the IT department’s staff, and works collaboratively with the Communications team to improve the delivery of services to enhance the marketing and branding of the Center and the CAFCS.

Clourth has obtained several Micro Certifications including business continuity & IT disaster recovery planning, asset security, end user network security, and fundamental system troubleshooting. He also has several IBM Certification Badges including Cybersecurity Fundamentals, he is an IBM Internet of Things Practitioner, and a Cybersecurity



Practitioner.

Wilson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science with a minor in Forensic Science and Criminology from Southern University and a Master’s in Information Technology with a specialization in Information Assurance and Security from Capella University.

Five College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences students receive the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and Tech Scholarship



Five Southern University students from the College of Agricultural, Family, and Consumer Sciences have been awarded the SU Ag Center's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and Tech Scholarship. The EDI and Tech Scholarship recipients are: O'Marion Rue, Freshman; Ricky Julien, Jr., Freshman; Mallory Tate, Jr., Freshman; Jordan E. Washington, Junior; and Christine Jones, Senior

"We are incredibly thrilled to award our students within the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences with the EDI and Tech Scholarships in partnership with the DXC Technology Team," said Dr. Donovan Segura, Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX at the SU Ag Center. Each recipient will be awarded a scholarship totaling \$2,000.00, \$1,000.00 during the Fall 2022 academic term and \$1,000.00 during the Spring 2023 term.

"These students are making significant contributions to the strength and harmony of this multigenerational campus community through their commitment and dedication to their academic work, service, and leadership. As we continuously work to prepare our students for the future, we understand how technology is transforming the future of agriculture," added Segura.

The SU Ag Center's Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX is committed to sharing the responsibility needed to promote safe and equitable 1890 land-grant communities within the state of Louisiana and beyond. The EDI Ag and Tech

Scholarship was established as a meaningful action step toward achieving a vision of an incredible equitable, inclusive, and multigenerational campus community.

"This award not only supports those who may not have the means to continue their academic work with educational access, but it also provides scholars with opportunities to enhance and improve their knowledge and skills in many new tech solutions that are emerging to assist teachers, farmers, and ranchers in optimizing their operations," said Segura.

The scholarship provides agriculture technology and educational support for students in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. The award procured to advance this goal for the 2022-2023 academic year is \$10,000.00.

"We appreciate the investment and support from our Chancellor-Dean Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, the Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Services/ Associate Dean Dr. Renita Marshall, and the EDI and Tech Scholarship Committee, Danielle Darensbourg, Saturn Douglas, and Jodi Morton for their diligence in advancing this work. As we move equity, diversity, and inclusion from awareness, to understanding, to commitment, to action, we are confident this investment is one that will add strength to our journey," expressed Segura.

For more information about the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and Tech Scholarship, contact Donovan L. Segura, at donovan_segura@suagcenter.com.

SU students lend a helping hand to Thrive Academy's Garden Club

Several Southern University students enrolled in the Department of Agricultural Sciences AGSC 201 - Home Vegetable Gardening course assisted the members of the Thrive Academy's Garden Club in setting up raised garden beds and planting vegetables during their weekly Garden Club meeting on Sept. 26, 2022.

Thrive Academy is a residential charter school in East Baton Rouge Parish. The Southern University Ag Center has had an agricultural presence at the school since 2013 and is currently operating the program through the "Out the Mud : Connecting Youth to Agricultural Opportunities Through Experiential Learning," USDA/NIFA grant.

Stephanie Elwood, SU Ag Center Extension Associate and Department of Agricultural Sciences home vegetable gardening class professor, has served as the club's garden instructor for several years. The university students had the opportunity to volunteer their time in the Thrive Academy garden. Their presence at the academy motivated and encouraged Thrive students to possibly choose a collegiate path in agriculture.

"By the end of the meeting, many of the SU students asked for information on how to become mentors at Thrive as well," said Elwood. "This is a great way to



get students interested in going to school for Ag and I am super proud of the AGSC 201 - Home Vegetable Gardening class," she expressed.

SU Ag Center kicks off its Medical Marijuana Educational Tour in Shreveport



Photos Courtesy of Southern University at Shreveport Media Relations Department

The Southern University Ag Center hold its inaugural medical marijuana educational tour in the auditorium of the Jackson Building on the Southern University Shreveport campus on Sept. 21.

The tour discussed the medical marijuana program at the Southern University Ag Center, the status of the Louisiana medical cannabis program, and information on medical and governmental topics. Panelists for the event included Janana Snowden, Ph.D., the Director of Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants and Assistant Professor in the SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences; Pamela Wiltz, Marketing and Sales Director for Ilera Holistic Healthcare; Kathryn Thomas, Clinical Director/ CEO of The Healing Clinics; and Sunny Hussain, M.D., a pediatric gastroenterology specialist.

Additional stops on the tour will include events in Baton Rouge and New Orleans in the coming months.

SU Ag Center holds successful 11th Annual Louisiana Small Farmers Conference



The Southern University Ag Center held its 11th Annual Louisiana Small Farmers Conference, themed “Sustaining Small Farms with Innovative Practices,” at the Hilton Hotel – Baton Rouge Capitol Center September 21-23, 2022.

More than two hundred participants gathered at the hotel to network and gain a better understanding of USDA programs, and attend innovative educational sessions to help them succeed in Agriculture. The three-day event kicked off with a tour of Avery Island and a meet and greet reception.

The second day of the conference began with welcomes by Mike Strain, Ph.D., Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor of the state of Louisiana; Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D., Chancellor of the Southern University Ag Center and Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. Dewayne Goldman, Ph.D., USDA Senior Advisor for Racial Equity to the Secretary of Agriculture, served as the opening speaker of the conference.

Throughout the day, small farmers engaged in several sessions that included information on USDA programs, funding agriculture business through the SBA, selecting the right breed for chicken operations, and climate-smart agriculture.

The evening ended with the 15th Annual Louisiana Living Legends Banquet. This banquet honors individuals who have made significant contributions to Southern University in the areas of teaching, research, and extension.

The 2022 honorees were Yadong Qi, Ph.D., Professor of Urban Forestry and Master’s Program Leader in the



SU College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Science (Teaching); Zhu Ning, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resource in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (Research), and Julia Gage, former Coordinator of Staff Operations and Executive Assistant to the Chancellor in the SU Ag Center’s Cooperative Extension Program (Extension).

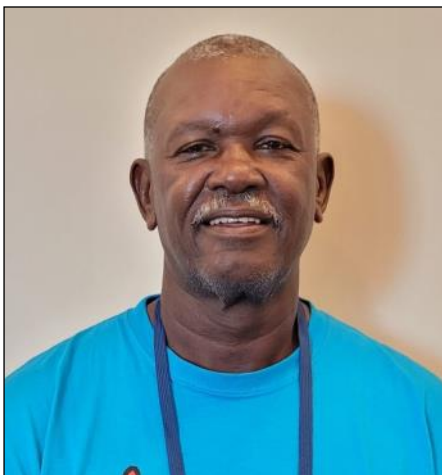
On the final day of the conference, small farmers were able to network, visit with exhibitors, and participate in sessions that included navigating the computer to improve your farming while sharpening your computer skills, an introduction to produce safety, and funding your agriculture project with a SARE grant.

Sponsors for the Small Farmers Conference included the National Black Growers Council, USDA OPPE, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program, and BASF.

For additional information about the Small Farmers Conference, contact Brian Phillips at brian_phillips@suagcenter.com.

Against the Odds: Louisiana Small Farmer Larry Freeman Continues the Legacy

Mr. Larry Freeman, born in Independence, La. and a native of St. Helena Parish, is a third-generation farmer who owns the same land in which he grew up as a child. Freeman credits his grandfather for not selling the land after purchasing it six years after slavery in 1873 for \$1,280. His farm roots began young, but he set up his own cattle business in the late 90s.



“The whole community was farming back then,” said Freeman.

Freeman has been married to his wife, Shirley Freeman, for 40-plus years. In 1987, he sold all his cows in support of her, opening a daycare. Currently, he owns his own Beef Cattle farm. He expressed some of the obstacles he faced such as finances and maintaining equipment, which is similar to the stories of many other small farmers.

“Farming has taught me good work habits. It is hard work, but it benefits my family and I’m able to eat most of the things on my farm,” added Freeman.

His connection with the Southern University Ag Center began after connecting with a member of the Louisiana Cattleman Association in St. Helena, LA.

In 2017, Freeman received an award from the Louisiana Farm Bureau for farming in the same location for 150 years. In 2018, he was one of the six recipients who received the Louisiana Century Farm award presented by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the LSU AgCenter as having owned and consistently farmed on Louisiana land for at least 100 years.

He is also a graduate of the Southern University Ag Center’s Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute. The Institute is a year-long course designed to promote the sustainability of small socially disadvantaged and/or minority owned farms through the enhancement of business management skills, utilization of USDA programs and services and leadership development. He credits Southern for helping him with the business aspect of his farm, and encouraging him to get an LLC.

“Southern University has helped me tremendously,” expressed Freeman.

Freeman is also a 2015 graduate of the LSU AgCenter’s Master Cattleman’s Program and is a member of the LA Cattleman’s Association. He is an East Feliciana Audubon Library board member, Justice of the Peace wedding officiant, and member of Rocky Hill AME Church. He currently serves as an advocate, encouraging individuals in his community to continue farming their land and to eat healthy.



1890 COE holds classes to improve the health and well-being of the community at the Scotlandville Community Development Corporation (CDC).

The 1890 Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life (NHWQL) at the SU Ag Center has been holding classes at the Scotlandville Community Development Corporation (CDC) to improve the health and well-being of the community.

Topics of the classes have included Meals to Menus: Straight Ahead on a Healthy Way Drive, which provided participants with information on how to plan and prepare a healthy meal in advance to give them more control over their food choices allowing them to save time and money and Fad Diets Fact or Fiction, which taught participants to identify Fad Diets and share their past experiences using those diets as a way of losing weight. The trainings were held on Sept. 7 and 14, respectively.

The NHWQL also hosted a Dinner and Podcast on Sept. 23rd in the kitchen of Pinkie Thrift Hall on the Southern University-Baton Rouge Campus.

During the event, Chef Desi Anderson prepared food and gave a mini food demonstration. Participants from the NHWQL’s summer classes were able to give an honest interview in the “Don’t Eat Yourself to Death Podcast,” allowing them to share their experience with likes/dislikes of the program and their healthy lifestyle changes.

This event was co-sponsored by LLENA.

For additional information on the SU Ag Center’s Center of Excellence and its upcoming events, visit <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/center-of-excellence>.

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Gina E. Eubanks: A People Person Helping the Peoples Department Build Equity

This story originally appeared on the USDA's Initiatives blog and was written by Laura Crowell, Communications Lead for USDA Equity Commission.

The youngest of ten children, Gina Elaine Eubanks grew up in rural Clinton, Louisiana, participating in 4-H. Her 35-year career in higher education brought her back to her native state, where she serves as the associate vice president and program leader at the Louisiana State University AgCenter. In this role, one of her duties is helping coordinate research and extension programs in nutrition and food sciences.

"I come from what one would say is an Extension background. I was involved in 4-H all the way through school," she said. After Eubanks graduated from Southern University in Baton Rouge with a bachelor's degree, she enrolled and completed a master's degree at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

For a very short time she worked as a buyer prior to accepting a teaching appointment with Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. She enjoyed college teaching, so she returned to OSU to pursue a PHD and upon completion she accepted a teaching position at Virginia Tech and then at Southern University A&M College.

In 1993, she accepted a job with Southern University Cooperative Extension Program as a home economist. During that time, she worked with limited resource families, farmers and youth. "We just didn't work with the ladies of the house," she said.

"I guess I've always been an individual that wanted to make a difference; to work with people," she said. "I couldn't see myself being an engineer sitting behind a desk, or a chemist mixing



formulas and doing that. I've known for years growing up, that I was a people person."

She is one of 28 members appointed to USDA's Equity Commission in February 2022. Each commission and subcommittee member, who serve two-year appointments, brings a specialized understanding of their individual field and professional niche.

Working together, the commission and its subcommittees will evaluate USDA programs and services and recommend how USDA can reduce barriers for accessing them by implementing transformative changes.

The Equity Commission held its first face-to-face meeting in May 2022 in Washington DC. "Every single individual came with a different reference point and all those reference points are valuable," she said. "I'm not saying because I'm a black female that we need to help no one but black farmers. I'm giving that as my reference," she said.

She said it's the commission members role to listen for understanding and apply that

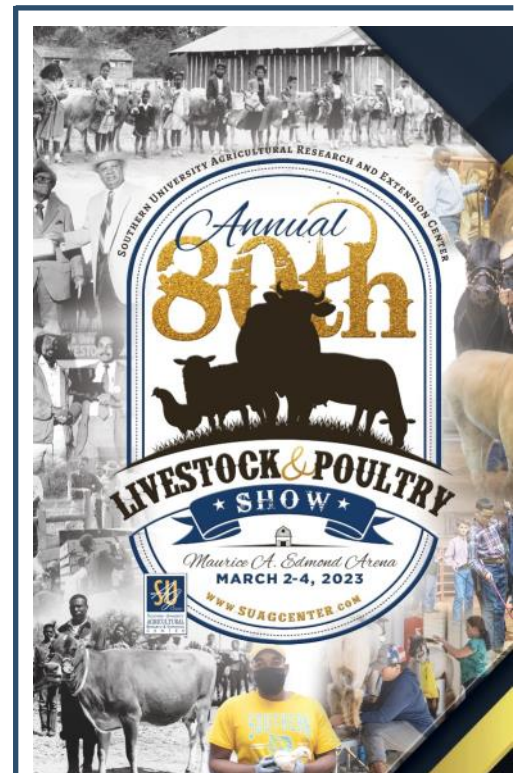
understanding to develop recommendations for building equity.

"Every She said it's the commission members role to listen for understanding and apply that understanding to develop recommendations for building equity.

"USDA has all the services. But the way in which USDA delivers those services can make the difference," she said. "In other words, I can walk into an USDA office and ask one question and you answer the question. The service has been provided."

But understanding that customer's reference point, can help guide a more detailed and helpful response.

Eubanks described the concept of equitable services using a simple story about giving away shoes. "Let's say everyone needs shoes, so I start giving out shoes. Then it's equal," she said. "But when I come in and give a person shoes that actually fit. That's equity."



SPONSORED BY SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MANRRS STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Annual Sweet Potato Sale

(Provide Money With EACH Order)

Make Checks Payable To:

SU Foundation/MANRRS Chapter

Accepting Cashapp Payments

To: \$MANRRSSU

Make Sure To Include

(First & Last Names - Potatoes)

Orders Due By October 28th

10 LB Bag \$7

15 LB Bag \$12

40 LB Box \$20

PRE-ORDERS ONLY!

Pickup On

November 3rd & 4th

10 am - 5 pm

Contact Dept. of Agricultural Sciences

Chianti Primus

(225) 771 3501

chianti_primus@suagcenter.com



#GROW JAGS!

P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813



(225) 771-2242



suagcenter.com



@suagcenter

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences is an entity of Southern University System, Orlando F. Mcmeans, Chancellor-Dean, Dennis Shields, System President, Edwin Shorty, Esq., Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furthermore 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 and the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences are provided to people of all ages regardless of race, national origin, or disability.

© 2022 Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences.

PRODUCED BY THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES