

chancellor's

SEPT/OCTOBER 2021

Mc *Report*



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for Academic and Student Services
/Associate Dean

DE'SHOIN YORK |
Vice Chancellor
for Extension & Outreach

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Vice-Chancellor for Research

KNOW YOUR IX

Dr. Donovan Segura appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX at the SU Ag Center

Donovan Segura, Ph.D., has been appointed the Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center. The appointment was approved on August 20, 2021 by the Southern University Board of Supervisors during its August meeting.

As AVC, the Crowley native will focus on all issues of discrimination appertaining to the personnel of the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. He will also provide support services to the Southern University System's General Counsel and Human Resources Offices on an as-needed basis. Dr. Segura assumed the position on September 1, 2021.

He most recently served as the Presidential Fellows Program Coordinator and Dual Enrollment University Liaison for the Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge. Dr. Segura is also an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Southern University in Baton Rouge and with Southern University at Shreveport's SUSLA Connect Program, which is housed on the Southern University Baton Rouge campus.

Outside of the University, Donovan is the Lead Consultant and CEO of DLS Consulting, LLC, which provides institutional accreditation, strategic planning, communications planning, policy development, diversity, equity, inclusion and opportunity for non-profit organizations, institutions of higher learning, foundations, and elected officials. He has served in several positions at Southern University which included the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Coordinator and Evaluator, Quality Enhancement Plan Director, Assistant Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, and Assessment Director /Title III Activity Director and Assessment/Testing Coordinator, both within the Institutionalizing and Sustaining Strategic Assessment Management Program (ISSAM). Donovan has also served as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion and Partner Relations of Take Care Baton Rouge.

Donovan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Master of Arts in Social Science, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy Administration, all from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge.



DR. DONOVAN SEGURA

Associate Vice Chancellor for
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX



SU Ag Center & the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences receives more than \$700,000 in USDA Capacity Building Grants

The Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) have received \$749,795 in Capacity Building grants from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The announcement was made in July through a USDA press release discussing its \$21.8 million investment to 1890 Land-grant Institutions to support research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities at our nation's Land-grant University System.

"Our 1890 Land-grant universities are an integral part of our nation's fabric," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "As USDA continues to work tirelessly to advance equity and provide greater access to nutritious and safe food for all Americans, especially to historically disadvantaged groups, this investment will strengthen the ability of our Land-grant Institutions to deliver innovative solutions that address emerging agricultural challenges impacting diverse communities. We are pleased to be able to build the research and training capacity of these critical institutions as they develop the next generation of leaders in agriculture."

The programs receiving funding are:

• **Grow Jags:** *Growing the Next Generation of Agriculture Professionals Through Recruitment and Retention* will develop a mobile lab, called *GrowjAGsMobile*, that will introduce youth to agriculture and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences. The program will also conduct *GrowjAGsummer* research enrichment activities and will establish a long-term pipeline of students to the field of agricultural and food sciences (FAS). (\$150,000)

• **The Fab Lab:** *The Southern University Fashion and Business Incubator to Increase Underrepresented Populations in Apparel Merchandising and Textiles Industry Entrepreneurship* will develop a business incubator called the *Fashion and Apparel Business "FAB" Laboratory*, which will specifically focus on fashion design and apparel entrepreneurship. The FAB Lab will support students enrolled in the Department of Apparel, Merchandising and Textiles (AMTX) at Southern University who wish to start or improve on an existing fashion, apparel and/or textiles-related small business. The Lab will also target minority high school-aged youth in Baton Rouge and surrounding rural areas and provide them with entrepreneurial skills through a summer youth program sponsored through the FAB Lab. (\$249,795)

• **Moving Toward the Golden Years:** *Understanding Healthy Aging* will recruit families and identify their lack of access to health care, develop health literacy lessons and curriculum materials, increase individuals' and families' knowledge and skills in health literacy and history, and establish a training ground for dietetic interns using an evaluation form that measures experiential learning. (\$350,000)

The USDA/NIFA's Capacity Building Grants program is designed to build capacity for teaching, research, and extension activities at eligible institutions including curriculum design, materials development, faculty development, student recruitment and retention, and extension program development support. This research investment will strengthen the quality and diversity of our nation's higher-education workforce, bolster research and knowledge delivery systems, and equip 1890 Institutions with the resources needed to better address emerging challenges and create new opportunities. In total, 58 projects from 1890 Land-grant Institutions were awarded over \$21.8 million as part of the Capacity Building Grants program.

NIFA's 1890 Land-grant Institutions programs are intended to strengthen research, extension and teaching in food and agricultural sciences by building the institutional capacities of the 1890 Institutions. This story was developed with information from a press release from the USDA.

SU Ag Center's TV program "Focus" has hit the airwaves & social media



A special edition of the Southern University Ag Center's show, Focus: Insight on the SU Ag Center is now airing on YouTube and the SU Ag Center Facebook page.

The show deals with the Delta variant of the Coronavirus. SU Ag Center videographer Dexter Newman and Electronic Content Development/Communications Specialist Nicolette Gordon interviewed Louisiana's top medical officer Dr. Joseph Kanter and Dr. Corey Hebert, Chief Medical Officer at Dillard University in New Orleans. Dr. Kanter discusses the effects that COVID-19 and The Delta variant have on the state of Louisiana and Dr. Hebert addresses the topic of "Kids and COVID."

Watch the program on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/Y-2x9flc4L0>.

Also, catch the release of a new 30 second public service announcement produced by the Southern University Ag Center featuring Our Lady of the Lake Hospital's Infectious Disease Expert, Dr. Catherine O'Neal and our Chancellor-Dean, Dr. Orlando McMeans.

College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences welcomes the Class of 2025



Ninety-three freshman Agriculture students were provided with an opportunity to hear from their professors and administrators on August 12 during the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) orientation.

"Holding student events such as orientation seals the deal for students and parents. In the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences our goal is to #growjags," expressed Saturn Douglas, Director of Recruitment and Retention for the CAFCS. "In our current culture of virtual interaction, it is important to safely utilize the moments we can meet in person to cultivate relationships and welcome our newest members to the Jaguar Nation," added Douglas.

CAFCS staff attending the orientation included Dr. Renita Marshall, Vice Chancellor and Assist Dean of the CAFCS, Saturn Douglas, Dr. Wilbert Thomas, SU Academic advisor, Keisha Dandridge Caesar, professor of Child Development, Dr. Jung-Im Seo, professor of Apparel, Merchandising, and Textiles (AMTX), Dr. Harold Mellion, Chair of the Department of Agricultural Science, and Dr. Chris Chappell, professor of Urban Forestry/Urban Forest Management.

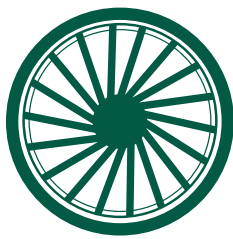


#GROW
JAGS!

TM

USDA

1890



NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

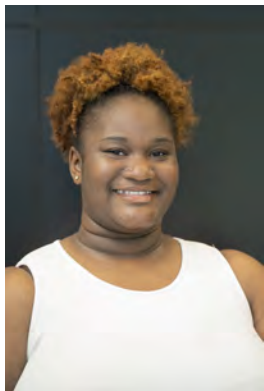
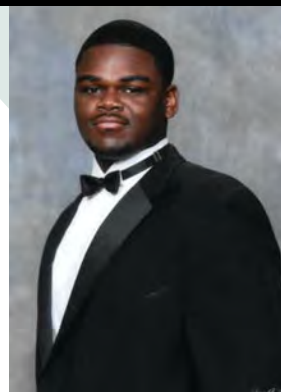
USDA names eight SU Students National 1890 Scholars



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has named eight Southern University students, seven of which are Agriculture majors, as 1890 National Scholars.

The addition of these eight scholars brings Southern's total number of 1890 scholars to 13.

"The greatest significance of Southern University receiving eight additional USDA/1890 National Scholars is that it's confirmation that Southern University, an 1890 Land-Grant University, continues to produce the students and future employees the federal, state and private industry seeks," said Allison Johnson, USDA National Outreach Coordinator-East and Southern University's USDA Liaison. "Southern University, as a land-grant university has a purpose to recruit, retain and graduate highly qualified, competitive students to compete for agricultural and STEM related careers. These students are poised to be the next leaders locally, throughout the state, nationally and internationally," added Johnson.



KENNEDY ORR
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Freshman Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Agricultural Business

MYHLAN DAVIS
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
Junior Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Plant and Soil Sciences

FLOYD HARRIS, JR.
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA
Junior Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Animal Science

TAYLIOR BURTON
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
Junior Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Agricultural Business

JEFFERSON BLACKMON
HUTTO, TEXAS
Sophomore Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Agricultural Business

NYLA WILSON
CLINTON, MARYLAND
freshman Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Agricultural Business

NICHOLAS VALLAIR
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
Sophomore Civil Engineering Major

KENDALL BENNETT
ZACHARY, LOUISIANA
Freshman Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Plant and Soil Sciences



The USDA's 1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 through a partnership between the 1890 Land-Grant Universities and the USDA to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines.

High school seniors entering their freshman year of college and rising college sophomores and juniors who exhibit exemplary leadership traits and have demonstrated community service are eligible to apply to the highly competitive program.

Students must be U.S. citizens; have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale; have been accepted for admission or currently attending an 1890 University; study agriculture or other related academic disciplines; submit an official transcript; and a signed application to apply to the program.

The 1890 scholars receive a scholarship that covers full tuition fees, books, and room and board. Professional and educational opportunities are also provided to the scholars through the USDA.

"This is an opportunity to further enhance my education and hopefully inspire others to do the same especially in agriculture," said Kennedy Orr, a freshman Agricultural Sciences major with a concentration in Agricultural Business. "It's also very important to me that I am a role model to other minority students that are hopefully looking to get this scholarship and enjoy this opportunity as I have."

"Southern University's agricultural students are in demand and we (USDA) recruit from our communities to best serve our communities," expressed Johnson.

Southern University's returning USDA/1890 National Scholars are Rodney Purdy Jr., a Senior Urban Forestry major from Chicago, IL; Amaryia Jackson, a Sophomore Plant and Soil Sciences major from Miami, FL; Brian Ardoin, Sr., a Senior Agricultural Economics major from Ville Platte, La; Taylor St. Vilus, a Sophomore Urban Forestry major from Raleigh, NC; and Jonah Granger, a Senior Civil Engineering major from Baton Rouge, La.



For questions regarding the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program, please contact the Ms. Allison Johnson at 202.302.7255., Allison.Johnson@usda.gov, or visit <https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars>.



Ten SU Urban Forestry Majors Receive Scholarships from the Louisiana Forestry Foundation

The Louisiana Forestry Foundation (LFF) has awarded scholarships to 10 Southern University Urban Forestry Majors for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.



Calvonta Ard
JUNIOR
FRANKLINTON, LA
Lyndon Erroll Dawson, Jr. Scholarship



Tess Brown
JUNIOR
DENHAM SPRINGS, LA
Lyndon Erroll Dawson, Jr. Scholarship



Kyla Bryant
SENIOR
GREENSBURG, LA
George M. Houston Scholarship



Ricker Carter
SENIOR
COMPTON CITY, CA
Henry Hardtner Scholarship



Omari Phillips
JUNIOR
BAKER, LA
George M. Houston Scholarship



Nicholas Pryor
SENIOR
FERRIDAY, LA
Commander Bertrand Dean Scholarship



Rodney Purdy, Jr.
SENIOR
SOUTH HOLLAND, IL
Rudolph E. Krause Scholarship



Aaliyah Royston
SENIOR
OPELOUSAS, LA
Lyndon Erroll Dawson, Jr. Scholarship



Valeria Smart
JUNIOR
BATON ROUGE, LA
Lyndon Erroll Dawson, Jr. Scholarship



Jada Walden
JUNIOR
BOSSIER CITY, LA
Commander Bertrand Dean Scholarship

Each scholarship is worth \$1,200 and paid in two checks, \$600 for the Fall 2021 semester and \$600 for the Spring 2022 semester, provided the students remain enrolled in the Department of Urban Forestry and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.

“I want to congratulate all the LFF scholarship recipients because this is not only a great academic honor, but also a professional recognition by the forestry community and professional organizations in Louisiana,” said Dr. Yadong Qi, Southern University Professor of Urban Forestry and LFF Scholarship Coordinator.

The LFF has continuously awarded scholarships to Southern University Urban Forestry majors since 2018, when Southern’s students were invited to join Louisiana State University, Central LA Technical Community College - Huey P. Long Campus, and SOWELA Technical Community College - Oakdale campus students in applying

for LFF scholarships. As a result, a total of 31 LFF scholarships have been awarded to Southern urban forestry majors totaling \$37,200.

Applications for the scholarships are accepted each Spring for the following year and all applicants, both new and existing ones, must apply/reapply each year for the scholarship.

The mission of the Louisiana Forestry Foundation is to advance, promote, develop and extend education in the field of forestry, including the development and diffusion of knowledge about the profession of forestry and the scientific management and use of forest resources.”

For more information about the LFF scholarship or the SU Urban Forestry Department, contact Dr. Yadong Qi, at Yadong_qi@subr.edu.



Southern University Ag Center's Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana's Small Farms and Businesses (ECP) Project Coordinator William Augustine, Specialist and Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources Zanetta Augustine, and County Agent Cleveland Joseph participated in Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's Back-to-School Extravaganza in Leesville, LA on August 15, 2021.

Southern University Ag Center's Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana's Small Farms and Businesses (ECP) Project Coordinator William Augustine and staff members Zanetta Augustine, Specialist-Agriculture Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the SU Ag Center and Cleveland Joseph, County Agent for the SU Ag Center participated in Pastor Pleasant Hill Baptist Church the Back-to-School Extravaganza in Leesville, LA on August 15, 2021.

The ECP staff provided the community with information about career opportunities and free virtual certification programs that are offered by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church members also volunteered during the Back-to-School Extravaganza and its pastor Rev. Joseph L. Garner present a donation to the SU Ag Center.

The ECP provides free virtual certification programs in the areas of Food and Farm Food Safety, Small Business Development, Master Small Ruminant, and Sustainable Urban Agriculture.

For more information about the Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana's Small Farms and Businesses' upcoming certification programs, visit www.suagcertify.com.



HURRICANE RELIEF

SU Ag Center's Mobile Technology Unit provided internet access to St. John residents during the LaPlace Hurricane Relief Day

St. John Parish was severely damaged by a natural disaster which prompted community leaders to organize aid for its residents. This resulted in forming the LaPlace Hurricane Relief Day which was held on September 17, 2021.

The Southern University Ag Center's Mobile Education and Technology Center (M-Tech Unit), Project Coordinator, William Augustine and Communities of Color (CoC) Assistant Director, Ryan Sugulleh traveled to LaPlace, La. to partner with Erica and Erin Rogers Founders of the Braveheart Foundation and Councilwoman Tyra Duhe – Griffin, to provide assistance to those greatly affected by Hurricane Ida.

The M-Tech Unit provided internet connectivity, laptop computers, and network printing access, for over 200 residents, to complete and submit their disaster relief documentation online. The Mobile Technology Unit assisted in giving the residents of LaPlace access to resources that will support them during their recovery process, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. The parish's Hurricane Relief Day also hosted a vaccination drive, food, and educational supply giveaway for the adults and children of the community.

The event connected the citizens of LaPlace with the resources that are needed to start the rebuilding process. The Southern University Ag Center has built a working relationship with the St. John Parish community, that has open communication for future collaborations.





NUTRITION & CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY

Consumer awareness of nutrition and food safety is very important to healthy eating and disease prevention. For the past 20 years, the government has been advising consumers to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, not only for nutritional content but also for overall health. At the same time, more than 3,000 people have died and over 48,000 people are hospitalized every year from food-borne illnesses.

There are government programs that have been designed to improve the nutrition, safety, and wellbeing of all American consumers. Examples of these programs include the research and development (R & D) of new food products, nutrition labels of the food products, clinical studies in the area of food safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), ServSafe and Food Handler training programs, and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP).

To aid in promoting nutrition and consumer food safety, the Southern University Ag Center offers a virtual Food and Farm Food Safety Certification through its Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana's Small Farms and Businesses Certification Programs. This certification provides basic training to farmers and food production managers on how to prevent, minimize, and reduce the risks of food product contamination during farming, purchasing, receiving, storing, preparing, cooking, reheating, and serving.



The course also explains federal guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing food areas, contact surfaces, utensils, and farm facilities.



For additional information on the Southern University Ag Center's virtual Food and Farm Food Safety Certification, visit <https://suagcertify.com/home/programs/food-farm-food-safety-certification/>.

SU JAGriculture publishes an e-field book through the Extension Foundation

JAGriculture, the Southern University Ag Center's award-winning emergency preparedness team, was selected as a New Technologies of Ag Extension (NTAE) Fellow, and successfully designed, developed, and implemented an inaugural three-day virtual Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Conference. The conference was held June 1 - 3, 2021 and provided emergency preparedness information specific to communities, entrepreneurs, Extension professionals, community responders, and farmers. Over 300 participants registered from around the country.

Additionally, the group which consists of, Dr. Krystle J. Allen (Fellow), Dr. Marlin Ford, Angell Jordan, and Kiyana Kelly, also wrote and published an e-field book titled, Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery: Creating a Virtual Conference for Low-Resourced Communities.

The e-field book can be found at <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/633384747/6/>.

SU Ag Center's Nutrition Department teaches cooking skills to youth through its CHEF Camps



Southern University Ag Center nutrition educators held Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods (C.H.E.F.) Camps in Avoyelles, Morehouse, and St. James Parishes for youth ages 9 -12. The C.H.E.F. camps are designed to teach youth basic cooking principles and nutrition education based on the USDA's, "MyPlate" food guidance system and Dietary Guidelines. A total of 93 youth participated in the camps that were held July 21-23, 2021 at the LSU AgCenter located on 8592 LA- 1 in Mansura, LA; July 12, 19, and 21, 2021 at the Morehouse Elementary School located on 1001 West Madison Avenue in Bastrop, LA; and July 19-23, 2021 at the St. James Hymel Housing Complex located on 8234 Mill Street in St James, LA. During the camps participants cooked entire meals while learning healthy eating and physical activity principles, food preparation, kitchen and food safety, common cooking terms, proper food handling, measuring techniques, critical thinking, planning, and time management. Some of the meals included quesadillas, fruit-tastic filled pancakes, pizza roll ups, fried and baked fish, chicken, crawfish/shrimp Étouffée, jambalaya, and ice cream in a bag. "At the beginning of C.H.E.F Camp, educators are teaching lifelong skills such as proper handwashing and using measuring utensils before using a stove or oven," said Melody Coco, SU Ag Center EFNEP Nutrition Educator Assistant. "When adding cooking skills, this helps children understand the importance of overall health while having fun. They can also be great helpers to their parents," added Coco. The camps were facilitated by Marianna Langston, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator for Morehouse Parish; Camellia Brown, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Supervisor & Educator; Melody Coco, EFNEP Nutrition Educator Assistant; Salette Tennie, EFNEP Nutrition Educator Assistant all for Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes; and Lisa Weber, SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator for St. James Parish. For additional information about the SU Ag Center's CHEF Camps, contact Si-Arah McCray, Extension Associate, SNAP-Ed Program Field Coordinator at siarah_mccray@suagcenter.com.



**DELTA AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH &
SUSTAINABILITY**
"Jobs For The Future"

Dr. De'Shoin A. York, SU Ag Center Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach was appointed by Dr. Ray Belton, Southern University System President and Chancellor of the SUBR, to represent the University on the Delta Agriculture Research and Sustainability District (D.A.R.S.D). The District, enacted via House Bill 647 and introduced and lead by Representative Travis Johnson, will create ways to develop the area of north Louisiana through agriculture sustainability which will create jobs for the future and various opportunities for economic development.

Dr. York was also selected by the 1890 Association of Extension Administrators to represent 1890 Universities on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Extension (JOE).

The journal is a rigorous, peer-reviewed journal that brings the scholarship of university outreach and engagement to educators and practitioners around the world.

HAPPY Retirement

SARAH SIMS

44 years of service

Family and Consumer Sciences (FSC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) Nutrition Educator

DR. YEMANE GHEBREIYESSUS **31 years of service**

Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences

DR. SEBHATU GEBRELUL **37 years of service**

Professor of Animal Sciences

DR. CHERYL ATKINSON **27 years of service**

Professor and Department Chair of Family and Consumer Sciences and Director of the Dietetic Internship Program



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