



# chancellor's NOVEMBER 2020 Mc *Report*

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**ORLANDO F. McMEANS** |  
Chancellor-Dean

**RENITA MARSHALL** |  
Vice-Chancellor  
for Academic and Student Services  
/Associate Dean

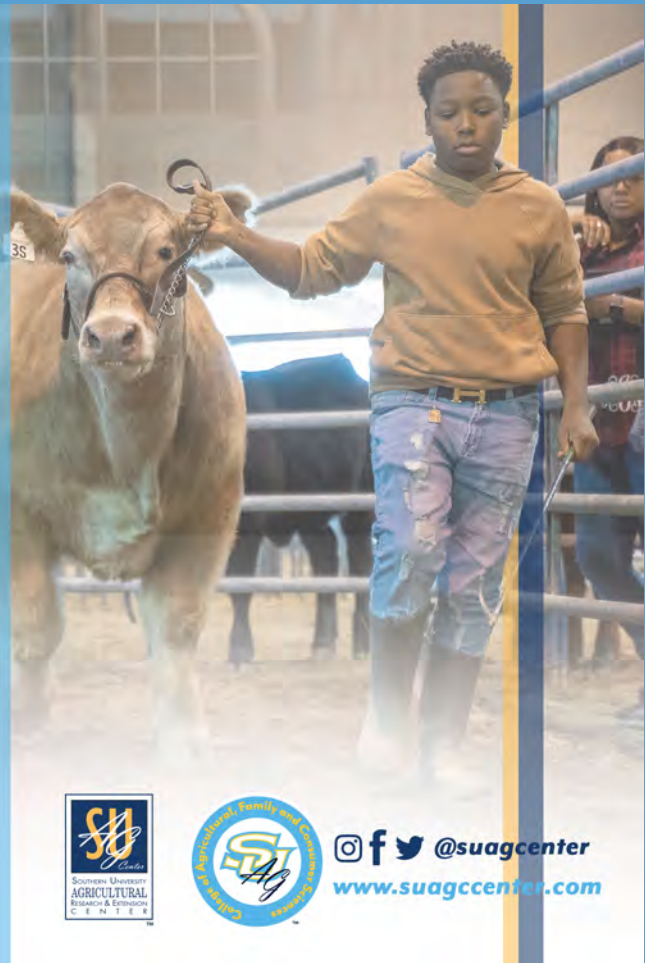
**De'SHOIN YORK** |  
Interim Vice Chancellor  
for Extension & Outreach

**CALVIN WALKER** |  
Executive Vice-Chancellor and  
Director of SUAREC Special Projects  
Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research



*Upon the recommendation of the administration, the Southern University Ag Center will host a Virtual Livestock Experience for 2021 instead of the traditional Livestock and Poultry Show. Animals will not be a requirement to participate in this upcoming event. To keep our participants, supporters, and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, this Virtual Experience is the best way to accomplish this goal. We appreciate your willingness and cooperation with this matter and look forward to sharing more information soon.*

*We hope that as we overcome this global pandemic, we will all be together in person celebrating our 79th Annual Livestock and Poultry Show in 2022.*



Instagram Facebook Twitter @suagcenter  
[www.suagcenter.com](http://www.suagcenter.com)

Participants are encouraged to visit the SU Ag Center's Livestock Show page for up-to-date information about the virtual event.

## SU Ag Center & community partners hold Hurricane Relief Distribution in Lake Charles



The Southern University Ag Center, its partner Ilera Holistic Healthcare, along with Medicis Pharmacy, Good360, Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, and the Louisiana Home & Foreign Missions Baptist Convention (LHFMBSC) Health Awareness Team (HAT) held a Hurricane Relief Distribution in Lake Charles, La. on October 30th.

The event was held at the Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, 1401 Moeling Street.

Participants received free blood pressure screenings and health information along with a relief package which included shampoo and conditioner, sanitary wipes, active apparel, hand sanitizer, diapers, deodorant, toothbrushes, children's activity kits, CBD bath bombs, and storage containers.

The event was covered by KATC News Channel 3.





*Brunetta C.*  
**DILLARD**

Brunetta Gamble-Dillard has been appointed the Vice Chancellor for Finance at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Dillard has more than 21 years of higher education experience working with grant management, financial planning, policies and procedures, human resources and federal, state, and local fiscal matters.

As the Vice Chancellor for Finance, Dillard will provide oversight to the SU Ag Center's Finance Unit and be responsible for managing the Center's accounting and external reporting functions as well as establishing and managing the implementation of policies and procedures for the Unit.

Prior to joining the Ag Center, Dillard served as the Associate Vice President for Business and Finance and the Interim Executive Director at West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation.

She also served as an Adjunct Professor of Business Administration at West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation and a Business Manager for NGK Spark Plug Manufacturing (USA) Inc.

Dillard is a member of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from West Virginia State College and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

# **Vice Chancellor for finance**

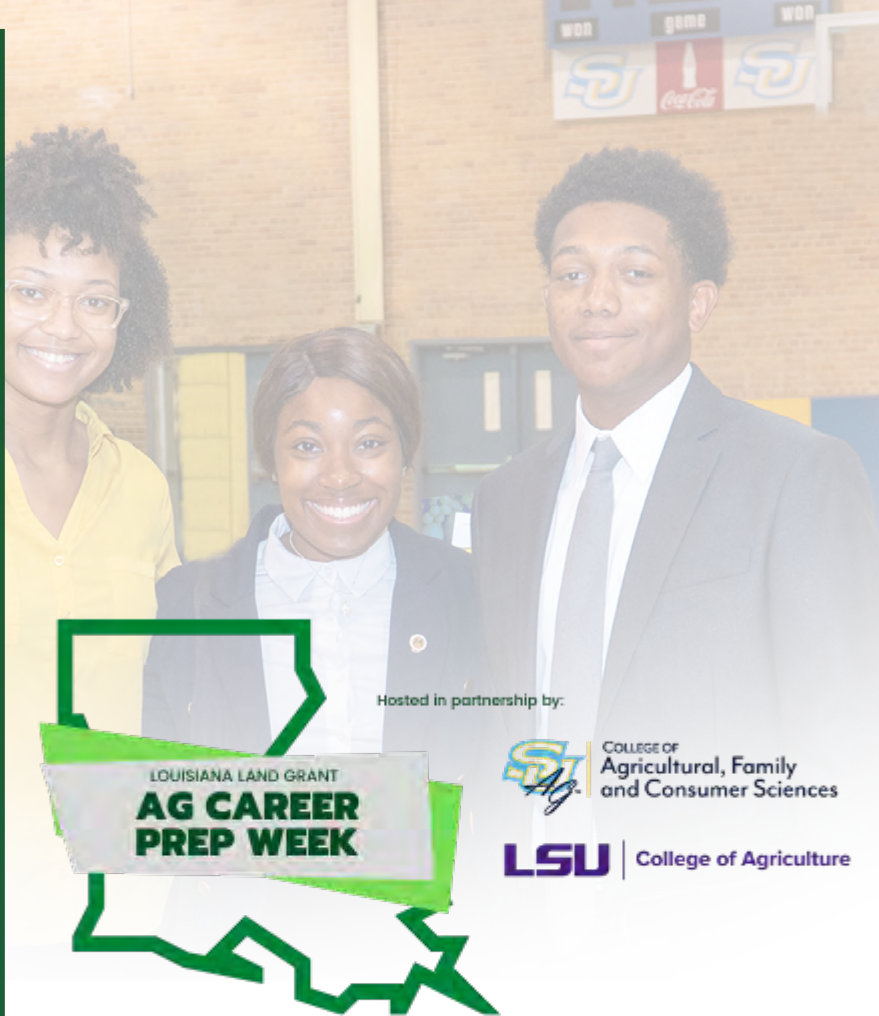


SU Ag Center Chancellor and Dean of the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) Dr. Orlando F. McMeans held a virtual Coffee Chat for CAFCS students, faculty, staff, alumni and prospective students on October 16. The chat was the concluding event of the Virtual Louisiana Land-Grant Ag Career Prep Week, which was co-hosted by the CAFCS and the LSU College of Agriculture.

Dr. Philip H. Elzer, Executive Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Department Head of Animal Sciences at LSU, served as a panelist along with Dr. McMeans during the event.

The virtual Louisiana Land-Grant Ag Career Prep Week was held October 13-16, 2020 and provided the agricultural students from the state's two Land-Grant Institutions with an opportunity to gain professional development skills and network with potential employers.

The week also included a Virtual Agriculture Career Fair, Roundtable discussions on Ag Careers and a Virtual Speed Networking Social.



**SARDI** uses a donation

FROM

**LOWE'S**

to assist with its School Gardening Program.

The SU Ag Center's Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI) received a large donation of gardening soils from Lowe's #1822 in Opelousas, La. on September 15.

The donation came in as SARDI prepared to service St. Landry Parish school gardens for the Fall 2020 session. The SARDI School Gardening Program has been in place for nearly four years and includes approximately 20 St. Landry Parish Schools. The SARDI staff has worked very closely with school administrators and teachers to educate our youth about the importance of agriculture along with nutrition.

Each school has either four or six raised box gardens installed, which is determined by the school's enrollment. With the generous donation from Lowe's, SARDI will be more than prepared to replenish each of the school's garden boxes just ahead of the 2020 fall planting season. Some of the vegetables that are being grown at the schools this fall are: Cabbage, Broccoli, Beets, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard Greens, Spinach, Swiss Chard, and Turnip Greens.

SARDI is a satellite campus of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center located in St. Landry Parish.

# URBAN FORESTRY

## Administration and Park Management

### VIRTUAL TRAINING

The Southern University Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources held a virtual administration and park management training for students on October 21.

The training, which was a part of the Department's Career Readiness Virtual Training Project, was held via Zoom and covered the topics of Urban Forestry Program Administration at the governmental level and within nonprofit organizations, as well as information on Park Management and Administration.

College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) alums Beatra Wilson, Lionel Bradford and Dr. RaHarold D. Lawson served as speakers for the training.



Wilson is the Assistant Director of Cooperative Forestry and national lead for Urban and Community Forestry at the USDA Forest Service in Washington, D.C. She oversees program policy, budget, partnership development and the strategic delivery of national, regional, and state urban and community forestry programs. Wilson earned a Bachelor's degree in Urban Forestry from Southern University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Kennesaw State University.



Bradford is the President and Executive Director of The Greening of Detroit, a non-profit organization devoted to creating sustainable growth of a healthy urban community through trees, green spaces, healthy living, education, training, and job opportunities. He oversees strategic planning, program development and management, staff supervision, grant writing and acquisition, and management of the organization's \$3 million budget. He serves on the advisory board for the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors at Wayne State (CURES at WSU) and The School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science (SFRES) at Michigan Technical University. Bradford earned a Bachelor's degree in Urban Forestry from Southern University.



Dr. Lawson is the Director of Park Operations for the Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission (BREC). He provides leadership in carrying out the mission of park operations, which is to efficiently and constantly maintain and provide exceptional parks and open spaces that are safe, functional, and esthetically pleasing. He is responsible for over 180 parks located through the East Baton Rouge Parish landscape, including conservation lands, recreational grounds, sports fields, neighborhood parks, and BREC's crown jewel, Community Parks. Dr. Lawson is also tasked with the functional operation of the \$13 million park operations budget. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Forestry in 1999, a Master of Science Urban Forestry in 2001, and a Ph.D. in Urban Forestry in 2018, all from Southern University.



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# CAREER

# READINESS

## VIRTUAL TRAINING PROJECT

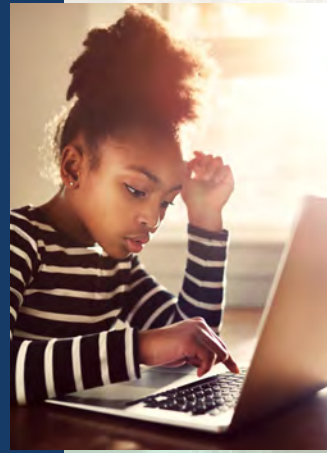
The “Career Readiness through Urban Forest Management and Leadership Skill Training” project is funded by the USDA Forest Service. The project is led by Dr. Zhu Ning, Department Chair of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources and Dr. Renita Marshall, Vice Chancellor/Associate Dean of the CAFCS. The project team members are Beatra Wilson, Assistant Director of Cooperative Forestry and national lead for Urban and Community Forestry at USDA Forest Service in Washington, D.C.; Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Director of Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission (BREC) and Dr. Brian Watkins, Assistant Director of Park Operations for BREC.

For additional information about the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Career Readiness Virtual Training Project, contact Dr. Ning at [zhu\\_ning@subr.edu](mailto:zhu_ning@subr.edu).



# Southern University Ag Center Prepares Youth to Thrive During the

# NEW NORMAL



In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, life as we once knew it abruptly changed and posed a major shift in the way we interacted with each other. Many uncertainties around the virus likely caused a significant amount of unrest in our communities. Across the globe, youth and their families missed pivotal moments in their lives such as prom, face-to-face interaction with friends, graduation ceremonies, and celebrations. Naturally, this was likely stressful and unsettling for adults and more so on our youth.

Dealing with an international pandemic was new to everyone and holistic adjustments were made emotionally, physically, and mentally. Therefore, to provide a foundation for support, the Southern University Ag Center's 4-H Youth Development team developed a series of five sessions to provide social and cognitive support services to youth, along with high school students who were directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The series, called Giving Youth Healthy Options that Promote Excellence (H.O.P.E.), was conducted via Zoom from June – August.

The sessions were provided in partnership with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and were strategically designed using a progressive learning strategy. The first session was, “Dealing with Disappointment.” Ideally, the intent was to acknowledge the feelings of the youth and offer therapeutic solutions to cope with the unprecedented circumstances. Other sessions included:

- *Preparing for My Tomorrow: What's Next for Me? – Making adjustments and setting attainable goals.*
- *Vision Board Party – Putting their visions on paper and discussing ways their goals may be attained. Feeling accomplished but, understanding it is ok to adjust their vision to refocus on the original goal.*
- *Social Distancing and Teens – As students prepared to return to school after the summer break, being quarantined and/or isolated, youth learned the importance of self-management and their responsibility in helping to stop the spread of infectious diseases.*
- *I Made It! – Youth closed the series with a new outlook on how to safely reengage in their “new normal.”*

The team is working to develop more series for youth and young adults and intends to partner with more faith and community-based entities to provide meaningful services to youth in Louisiana.

Southern University Ag Center's 4-H Youth Development team is led by Tiffany Franklin, Ph.D., Associate Youth Specialist and Program Leader, with Assistant Area Agents Kayla Fontenot and Chelsea Hammond. This article also appeared in the Voice of Louisiana Agriculture newsletter.







# BE Thankful



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