

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER**



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CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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SU AG CENTER SIGNS MOU WITH ST. LANDRY PARISH

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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System, Leodrey Williams, Chancellor, Ronald Mason, Jr., System President, Darren Mire, 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. © 2008 SU Ag Center.

The SU Ag Center recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with St. Landry Parish Government on a garden project that will enhance the quality of life of the community while saving the government some money. The MOU proposes a garden project for St. Landry Parish in which the parish government will provide land for the garden in Opelousas near the local airport. Southern University Ag Center will provide technical assistance and training for inmates and field workers.

The garden will be run by inmates from the parish prison under the supervision and management of parish personnel.

In the first year, the one-acre garden will grow sweet corn and vegetable crops with the potential of expanding to four acres in

coming years. The training will include workshops and hands-on experience in the gardening operation, from raising seedlings, transplanting, maintaining to harvesting.



SU Ag Center and St. Landry Parish members at the proposed garden site

Initially, the seedlings will be raised at the Southern University Agricultural Center green house. In the future, a garden storage shed will be erected on-site to enable the garden to raise its own seedlings. The produce will feed the inmates and the surplus will be sold to the community,

thus increasing access to healthy food in St. Landry community, saving the parish some money and generating income.

The purpose and scope of the project as delineated on the MOU are: to develop a garden that will be run by inmates so that they will have fresh supply of healthy food to eat and to share; to train inmates with valuable gardening skills that will help them with job opportunities upon their release; and to use the garden for model demonstration for communities and students in St. Landry Parish.

SU AG CENTER JELLY MAKES IT TO RESTAURANT MENU

The SU Ag center is constantly conducting research on plants with health and economic benefits to the citizens of Louisiana. Hibiscus, one of such plants is reaping health and economic benefits following years of intensive research. Hibiscus, known for its medicinal effects in lowering high blood pressure, is also yielding other products of economic impact as local restaurants take it to another level by using its jelly in dishes such as stuffed pork loin made with cherries, charizo and hibiscus jelly. The *G Spot* restaurant owner, Chef Guidry, recently posted on his blog how he incorporates the jelly into his stuffed pork loin dish.

“Well, my dad gave me a jar of hibiscus jelly that the (Southern University) Ag Center gave to him. I had never tasted anything made with Roselle, so I was really anxious to try it. It has a very unique taste – a light, peppery, licorice flavor. I recently used it to prepare this SERIOUS stuffed pork loin ... Delicious!”

Chef Guidry also made a statement that is very powerful and much appreciated by the Southern University Ag Center:

“One of the cool things that scientists at the S.U. Agricultural Center are doing is developing and finding uses for *Hibiscus sabdariffa*, the *Roselle* species of the hibiscus

plant. They are investigating its nutritional value under various growing conditions, and plan to introduce its products to food markets and to reach our small farmers to increase its marketability.”

The full blog post is available at <http://thegspotculinary.com/blog/stuffed-pork-loin-w-cherries-chorizo-hibiscus-jelly/>.

For more information contact Dr. Kit Chin at kit_chin@subr.edu

CARET REPRESENTATIVE VISITS SU AG CENTER



L-r: Adell Brown, Renita Marshall, Leodrey Williams holding up a jar of hibiscus jelly, Walter Guidry with cracker for the jelly and Kit Chin holding up the SU Ag Center hibiscus book.

Walter Guidry, one of the current Southern University representatives for the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) visited the SU Ag Center on April 2 to interact

with administrators, faculty, staff and graduate research assistants.

Mr. Guidry is a Southern University alumnus and former member of the Board of Supervisors. This was his first visit in the capacity of CARET representative.

Most research scientist shared information about their projects and the highlight was the hibiscus group which showed and told with products ranging from tea, cookies to chutney and jelly.

The Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching is a national grassroots organization created in 1982 by A·P·L·U's Division of Agriculture. CARET is composed of representatives from the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. CARET's mission is to advocate for greater national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs that enhance the quality of life for all people. CARET also works with national agricultural organizations to tell agriculture's "story."

CENTER EDUCATES RURAL COMMUNITIES

Members of the Center for Rural and Small Business Development at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center served as presenters for the District Conference of the Greater New Orleans-Greensburg Eighth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on Friday, March 23 at Greater St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Hammond.

Eual L. Hall, Business Development Specialist in the Center for Rural and Small Business Development spoke to the group about the Agricultural Research and Extension Center's mission and conducted a presentation on how to start a business.

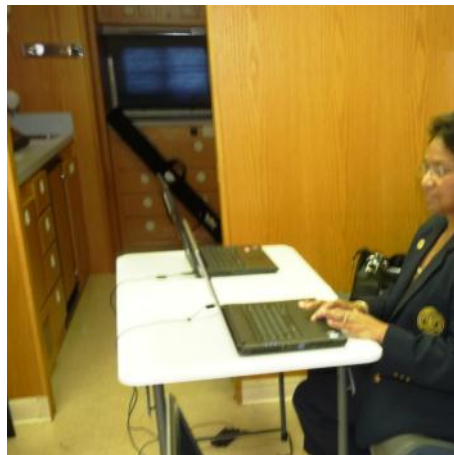
Dr. Renita Marshall, Associate Professor of Animal Science spoke about the services available to the community through the Sustainable Agriculture Program and provided information on how to access the services.

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, spoke about the importance of healthy diet and on-going projects that the Nutrition and Health Program is conducting to assist the community in enhancing the quality of life.

Frankie Poland, Regional Coordinator of Regions two and nine for the Communities of Color Network, spoke about the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke.

LaKeeshia D. Giddens, Program Director of the E-Learning Rural Mobile Training and Development Unit in the Center for Rural and Small Business Development, spoke about the services provided by the Mobile Unit, which is equipped with ten computer workstations and can travel to any community or location to perform onsite business development training. The Mobile Training and Development Unit was also available for individuals to tour after the presentation.

Southern University Board of Supervisors member, Hon. Ann A. Smith was also in attendance for the presentation and toured the Mobile Training and Development Center. She also stated that she was very impressed with the Agricultural Research and Extension Center's efforts to assist the community.



SU Board Member, Mrs. Ann Smith, inside the E_Learning Mobile Lab



Renita Marshall



Eual Hall



Frankie Poland

NUTRITION SCIENTIST PRESENTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, associate professor, nutrition, presented on the topic of “Antioxidant Activity of Rice Bran Added Goat Meat Sausages” at the 10th International Functional Food Conference, March 13-15 at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The participants were very interested in the presentation.

The conference brought together experts in medicine, biology, and the food industry from more than 45 countries to discuss the contri-

butions of functional foods and bioactive compounds in the prevention and management of chronic diseases. Main conference topics included Bioactive Food Compounds: Sources and Potential Benefits in Health; Bioactive Food Compounds and Public Health; Bioactive Food Compounds and Chronic Diseases; Role of Bioactive Food Compounds in Nutrigenomics, Nutrigenetics, Proteomics, and Metabolomics; Science and Practice: Functional Foods in the Management of

Chronic Diseases: Obesity, Diabetes, Cardiovascular disease, Cancer and other Chronic Diseases; Research and Development of Functional Food Products.

Following her presentation, Malekian was invited to present her research results at the Annual World Congress of SQ Foods-2012 in Shenzhen, China.

BOLD PROJECT PARTICIPANTS TOUR NEW ORLEANS

The Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD) project participants, under the direction of Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, Extension Specialist, traveled to New Orleans for a community leadership development tour, March 16-17. All 15 participants along with Justin Egbe, co-PI for the project, began their visit on Friday morning to Jericho Road Housing Initiative, where Michael Robinson led participants to lunch at Café Reconcile and a tour of housing developments in the New Orleans area. Participants also visited Sojourner Truth and did a walk-through of the new development of Lafitte Housing Projects. Our School at Blair Grocery, an after school gardening project for at-risk youth in the Lower Ninth Ward, hosted the BOLD participants. The tour ended Saturday

morning at the Lower Ninth Ward Village, a local nonprofit under the direction of Mr. Mack, whose purpose is to redevelop housing and rejuvenate residents living in the Lower Ninth Ward.

Project participants meet once a month at the SU Ag Center. The next tour will be held in September 2012 at Jackson and Mission, Mississippi.



BOLD participants and tour hosts expressed great enthusiasm and excitement while sharing their visions for their communities.

For more information about BOLD, contact Dr. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith at 225-771-2242 or Kenyetta_smith@suagcenter.com

THE UNIVERSITY TAKES TRAINING TO VILLAGE OF WILSON

The Southern University Ag Center brought small business training to the village of Wilson.

With the unstable economic climate, many small businesses, especially those in rural underserved communities, are facing tough financial times. Free assistance for these small businesses is a priceless commodity that many rural communities, like the Village of Wilson, don't have. The SU Ag Center is poised to offer the much needed technical assistance.

On February 27, LaKeeshia Giddens, Program Director of the E-Learning Rural Mobile Training and Development Unit, Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist, Wilbert Harris and William Augustine, computer specialists, Center for Rural and Small Business Development (CRSBD) at the SU Ag Center, traveled to the Village of Wilson in the Center's E-Learning Rural Mobile Technology Unit to bring small business training to the community.

During the visit, Mayor Marilyn Broadway, chief of police, Kenneth Stewart, Wilson residents and several youth from the Wilson Community Youth Organization visited the Mobile Unit and were introduced to the small business development training capabilities offered by the Mobile Center.

The E-Learning Rural Mobile Training and Development Unit is equipped with ten computer work-

stations, and can travel to any community or location to perform onsite computer or educational training. The CRSBD staff provides management and technical assistance to foster business development and create sustainable economic development in more than thirty rural Louisiana parishes.

Training sessions can be conducted on such topics as: how to start and/or expand a business, marketing a business, accounting issues, developing a business plan, QuickBooks, finding access to capital, business sustainability, branding, the legal aspects of starting a business, cash flow management, loan packaging, using a computer and other topics applicable to entrepreneurship.

The staff is planning to return to Wilson in the coming weeks to provide training sessions for existing and potential small business owners in the community.

To obtain more information about the Center for Rural and Small Business Development and its services, visit www.crsbd.com or call 225.771.4107.

This article has appeared in the *Feliciano Explorer*, *East Feliciana Watchman* and *Feliciano Voices-The Felicianas On Line*, <http://felicianavoices.net/FelicianoVoicesToday/SouthernUniversityNews.html>.



The Mobile unit is equipped with ten workstations and can travel to any community to conduct on-site small business development training



William Augustine, left, discusses the capabilities of the Center's E-Learning Rural Mobile Training and Development Center with the Village of Wilson Chief of Police Kenneth Stewart (center) and Wilson resident Lawson Cannon during a visit to the Wilson community.

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER COOKING DEMONSTRATION FOR AGENTS

Each year in March, nutrition education training is held to highlight the National Nutrition Month. This year, a train-the-trainer nutrition education cooking demonstration was held at the SU Ag Center for Extension agents and nutrition educators across the state. Local chef, Celeste Gill, trained approximately 20 agents and nutrition educators on how to prepare healthy cost-effective meals using Louisiana grown products.

De'Shoin York Friendship, Nutrition Specialist, sponsored the training. For further detail, contact Friendship at 225-771-2242.

Chef Celeste is featured weekly on the *Around Town* TV show, on WAFB, channel 9 in Baton Rouge.



ADVOCATES RALLY TO SAVE RURAL AMERICA



Speakers at “Save Rural America” rally in Amite, March 12



Eual Hall, left, addresses group inside the E_Learning Mobile Lab



Group tours E_Learning Mobile Lab including City of Amite Police Juror Gordon Bergers, standing.

On March 12, the Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff members - LaKeeshia Giddens, Program Director of the E-Learning Rural Mobile Training and Development Unit, and Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist, participated in a “Save Rural America Rally” in Amite, Louisiana.

Farmers from across the state came together at the rally to explain what they were growing and garner support to preserve rural America.

During the rally, Hall and Giddens were interviewed during a live airing of the *Saving Rural America BlogTalkRadio Show* about the Center’s upcoming “Connecting Businesses with Contracts” Procurement Conference, which is scheduled for April 10 on the Southern University Baton Rouge campus. The two also served as guest speakers at the event. They shared information about the services offered through the Center for Rural and Small Business Development and the Center’s E-Learning Rural Mobile Training Unit.

The E-Learning Rural Mobile Training Unit was also available for tours during the rally.

SECOND CHANCE 2 RECOVER IN BOSSIER PARISH

Two financial planning workshops were held at the Caddo Correctional Center on February 2 and 13, by Katherine Ervin, parent educator, Bossier Parish. There were 140 inmates in attendance for both workshops. The purpose of classes was to prepare inmates for release by enhancing their understanding, knowledge, and skills that will enable them to assume economic roles and make financial decisions with confidence and competence.

Through these classes, the inmates became aware that many families have similar problems when there is “too much month and not enough money.” They learned that the first step toward being successful is identifying what they want out of life.



Ervin, left, interacts with inmates during financial planning class

The inmates understand that some of the major expenses they have to face in life include education, transportation, housing, raising children and healthcare. Therefore, to be financially successful, they must learn as much as possible about their financial situation in order to reach their goals.

They learned that managing their finance is a decision, a determination, a mindset and focus that must remain throughout their life time.

In the classes, the inmates also learned that they need to “earn it, manage it, oversee it, and take care of it” like a “Rock Star.” Ms. Ervin shared with the inmates that it’s not what you make, but what you save versus what you spend that determines your wealth. She emphasized the importance of knowing how much income to expect over a period of time and to budget accordingly.

“My goal as an educator is help inmates develop financial planning skills and learn how to budget because it is an important part of money management,” said Ervin.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, nutrition professor, submitted an abstract to the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), which was accepted for presentation at the IFT annual conference to be held in Las Vegas, June 27-July 1st. The paper is entitled: “Sensory acceptability and chemical characteristics of healthy rib-eye steaks from forage-finished steers” and will provide consumers with information on health benefits of forage-finished beef from a USDA study on sensory evaluation.

Dr. Bridget Udoh, communications specialist, attended a town hall meeting regarding the USDA/NIFA project starting at 7:00 p.m. in St. Helena Parish, March 6. The purpose of attending the meeting was to share information about the project with small farmers and arrange a date for focus group meeting. SU Ag Center faculty and staff as well as USDA personnel in attendance shared different information with the group. Andra Johnson, assistant professor, urban forestry, addressed the group on alternative crop production for alternative fuel; Eual Hall, business development specialist, discussed business startup and expansion, while Allison Johnson, USDA Liaison shared information on USDA programs and services available to minority farmers and business owners.

Udoh gave an overview of the project entitled “Strategies to Improve Farm and business Efficiency

Through Integrated Communications.”

The President of the St. Helena Parish Cattlemen Company invited the SU team back to conduct a focus group on April 3.

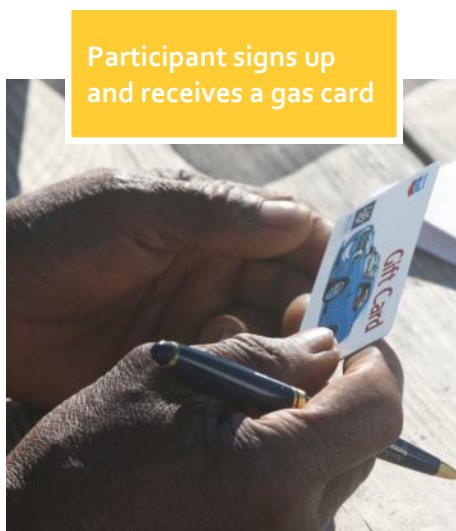
Udoh also, along with Chris Rogers, director of technology services, conducted a focus group meeting with small farmers in Avoyelles Parish on March 24.

Four participants were recruited for the communications project.

On April 3, Bridget Udoh and Eual Hall interacted with the St. Helena Parish Cattlemen Association members in a focus group meeting. Ten attendees signed up to participate in the project.



Eual Hall addresses group in St. Helena



Udoh addresses group in Mansura, Avoyelles Parish, March 24

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES CONTD.

THE CENTER FOR RURAL AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESPONDS TO GROUP REQUEST

A group of small farmers and business owners requested the Center for Rural and Small Business Development staff to help define their purpose, goals, and objectives in northern Tangipahoa Parish during their meeting at the Amite Louisiana USDA Service Center on March 27. Several USDA representatives in the Amite Area Office participated in the meeting. Participants included Warner Hall, business owner and small farmer, Patrick Babineaux, USDA County Executive Directory Amite, LA, Carl James, small farmer and business owner, Toney Beaubouef, NRCS District Conservationist,

Amite, LA small cattle farmer and business owner, Jonathan Young of USDA, Area Office, Hank Schumacher, small cattle farmer and business owner, Emily King, Southern University Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Quincy Walker, small farmer and business owner, Angela Myles, LSU and SU Ag Centers, and Eual Hall, SU Agriculture Research and Extension Center's Center for Rural and Small Business Development.



Group discussion during meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16, 23 and 30: Business Development Training, 6-8 pm. Anderson Middle School, 1059 Anderson Street, New Iberia, LA 70560. To register, contact LaKeeshia Giddens at lakeeshia_giddens@suagcenter.com or via phone at 225.771.2160 or Eual Hall at eual_hall@suagcenter.com or via phone at 225.771.4105 or 225.771.1142.

May 3-4: Louisiana Fisherman/Oysterman Gulf Visit and Tour, Gulf of Mexico. Contact Dawn Mellion-Patin at 225-771-3532 for further detail.

May 7, 14, and 21: Business Development Training, 6-8 pm. Anderson Middle School, 1059 Anderson Street, New Iberia, LA 70560. To register, contact LaKeeshia Giddens at lakeeshia_giddens@suagcenter.com or via phone at 225.771.2160 or Eual Hall at eual_hall@suagcenter.com or via phone at 225.771.4105 or 225.771.1142.

May 11: St. Helena Family and Youth Exposition at St. Helena Middle School. Contact Angela Myles at (225) 222-4136 or via email angela_myles@suagcenter.com

May 20 – 23: Louisiana County Agents Meeting, Port Allen, LA. Contact Terrence Marshall at 225-771-2242