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Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, an entity of the Southern University System, Adell Brown, Jr., Interim Chancellor; Ray Belton, System President; Leon R. Tarver II, 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.

## CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

**Dr. Adell Brown, Jr.**

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Presented to:  
Board of Supervisors  
Southern University and A & M College System



*"Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success"*

## SU Ag Center Interim Chancellor among Honorees of ‘The Network Coalition’

The SU Ag Center’s interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Jr. was honored during The Network Coalition’s, “The Dawning of a New Era Experience.”



The event was held on Friday, November 27, 2015 at the Milan Restaurant inside the Pere Marquette Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

Southern University Law Center interim Chancellor Dr. John Pierre and Oschner Hospital’s Bill Oliver and Bobby Brown were also honored during the event.

The Southern University System was also recognized for implementing the state’s first tobacco-free policy on all of its college campuses. This tobacco-free initiative was spearheaded by the Southern University Ag Center’s Communities of Color Network.

Full detail available at <http://on.fb.me/1QtajX2>

## SU Ag Center Faculty Speak at National Agriculture Workers’ Conference

Southern University Ag Center faculty members Fatemeh Malekian, Professor of Nutrition and Food Science; Kasundra Cyrus, Extension Specialist for Family and Human Development, and Renita Marshall, Associate Professor of Animal Science, were among the featured speakers during the 73rd Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) held at Tuskegee University, December 6th – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

During the conference, Malekian and Cyrus made an oral presentation titled “Effect of Whey Protein/Resistant Starch on Body Weight” and conducted a poster presentation in conjunction with a shake/smoothie demonstration.

Marshall made a presentation titled, “Evaluation of Herd Health Programs and Management Practices on Small Beef Cattle Farm Operations: A Case for Prevention vs Treatment,” during the Livestock Research and Outreach session of the conference.

Additional information on Whey Protein can be obtained by visiting [goo.gl/akNEhx](http://goo.gl/akNEhx).

For information on the PAWC visit, [www.PAWC.info](http://www.PAWC.info).



Cyrus, left, and Malekian - oral presentation



Malekian at poster presentation



Cyrus and Malekian conduct demonstration

## USDA State Office Staff Visit the Southern University Ag Center

Officials from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Louisiana office visited the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center on Jan. 14.



L-r: SU Ag Center interim Chancellor Adell Brown, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Extension Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, Doze Butler, associate dean College of Sciences and Agriculture, Sebhata Gebrelul, Renita Marshall, Craig McCain, Christine Normand, and Randolph Joseph, discuss ways to enhance their relations during a meeting held at the SU Ag Center on Jan. 14.

The group held a round table discussion which focused on enhancing the relationship with both the NRCS and FAS by realigning programs to help the state's clientele and provide more opportunities for students in the field of agriculture.

SU Ag Center's interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Extension Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, along with several faculty and staff of the SU Ag Center and professors from the Southern University Baton Rouge campus' College of Sciences and Agriculture, including associate dean Doze Butler, met with Kevin Norton, the state's USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Program Liaison; Randolph Joseph, NRCS State Conservationist; Craig McCain, Louisiana's Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Christine Normand, FSA's Administrative Chief during the visit.

The Southern University Ag Center and the SUBR College of Sciences and Agriculture will continue to work with the USDA to enhance economic opportunities, provide highly competitive agricultural systems and help the citizens of Louisiana become a healthier, more nourished population. Visit <https://goo.gl/PTZ8uh> for further detail.

## Interim Chancellor attends AG EXPO Appreciation Luncheon

Southern University Ag Center interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Jr. attended the North Louisiana Agri-Business Council's Agricultural Award and Legislative Appreciation Luncheon on Jan. 15 in Monroe, LA.

While there, Dr. Brown was able to speak with U.S. Congressman Ralph Abraham, who represents the 5th District of Louisiana.

The luncheon, which honors legislators and regional leaders in agricultural production, service and business, is one of several events held during the annual AG EXPO.

The North Louisiana Agri-Business Council is a not-for-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of directors. Its mission is to provide education across all demographics regarding agriculture's contributions to the basic needs of food and fiber, and economic welfare.

Full details are available at <https://goo.gl/VhjiEu>. For additional information about the Council or its AG EXPO, visit [agexpo.org](http://agexpo.org).



Dr. Brown, left, discusses with Congressman Abraham

## CoC Network attends Baton Rouge “Breathe Free” Kick off Campaign

In partnership with local health agencies, the Southern University Ag Center's Communities of Color Network (CoC) Director, Linda Early Brown and Regional Coordinator, Frankie Poland participated in the Breathe Free Press Conference on Wednesday, January 20th, to announce the 2016 “Breathe Free” campaign. The event was held in Galvez Plaza in Downtown Baton Rouge.

The purpose of the press conference was to kick off the second annual “Breathe Free” campaign, which is designed to raise public awareness about the

importance of providing tobacco-free environments for the entire community. The 2016 campaign was held from January 20 through January 27, and featured messages in hospital, clinics, on social media and throughout the city, including Southern University, to encourage Baton Rouge to “Breathe Free.”

Visit <https://goo.gl/1EshC6> for full details.

## Parish Agents Hold Gardening Workshop at Women's Correctional Facility

Southern University Ag Center Agriculture and Natural Resources Agents Ahmad Robertson, Sr. and DeLane Ross held a gardening workshop for inmates of the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (L.C. I. W.) in St. Gabriel, LA on Dec. 11, 2015.

During the workshop, Robertson, an area agent in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes, facilitated a presentation on 'Backyard Fruit Production.' This presentation provided the facility's trustees with knowledge on proper planting methods, pruning, diseases, pest control, conventional and organic growing practices, variety selection and cultural tips for specific fruits grown in Southeast Louisiana.

Ross, who is an agent for St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, gave a presentation on 'Improving Soil Health to Improve Plant Health,' which helped to foster the knowledge and science of maintaining soil and its direct effect on plant health.

Participants were excited to learn about the types of fruits they were able to grow within the institution's current landscape. They were also intrigued to learn the vital importance of balancing soil nutrients along with maintaining proper pH to produce optimum growing conditions.

This workshop was made possible through a partnership with Willie Sims, a Baton Rouge Community College Horticulture Instructor who works within the incarcerated trustee communities. Detail available at <http://on.fb.me/1SKQBZY>.

# SU Ag Center Launches ‘Looking Good, Feeling Great’ Employee Health Initiative

Several members of the Southern University Ag Center’s state office swapped their dress shoes for sneakers on Wednesday, Jan. 6 as interim Chancellor Dr. Adell Brown, Jr. led them on a mile and a half walk around the rear parking lot of A. O. Williams Hall.

The group laced up their shoes as part of the Ag Center’s internal employee health initiative called, “Looking Good, Feeling Great,” which was launched on Monday, Jan. 4.

The program, which is voluntary, has been developed and executed especially for all SU Ag Center employees, regardless of their location.

Chancellor Brown and Dr. Gina E. Eubanks, SU Ag Center Vice Chancellor for Extension, hosted a kick-off for the initiative on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Participants received health journals, exercise accessories and challenge instructions during the event.

Parish staff and other employees not located in the state office are encouraged to participate at their location and post photos of their activities on the SU Ag Center’s Facebook and Twitter pages using the hashtag [#SUAgCenterLGFG](#) The initiative is progressing and information is available at <http://on.fb.me/1OQc9AA>.



One component of the initiative is to walk with the chancellor twice a week

## SU Ag Center Promotes Healthy Community One C.H.E.F. at a Time

Nutrition agents in Calcasieu Parish with the Southern University and LSU Ag Centers have been awarded a Walmart Community Health and Wellness Initiative grant by the Walmart Foundation. Southern Ag Center's Carol Sensley and LSU AgCenter's Shatoria McCarty were presented with the award on January 20 during the grand opening of a Walmart Neighborhood Store on Ryan Street in Lake Charles, LA for their work with the Creating, Healthy, Enjoyable Foods (C.H.E.F.) Cooking Camps.

On January 23, cooking demonstrations were conducted for Walmart customers by select CHEF Camp participants. SU Ag Center Extension Specialist De'Shoin York and LSU AgCenter EFNEP Program Manager Sharman Charles were present to support the efforts of the agents. SU Board member Raymond Fondel stopped by to support the event. Also on hand was Police Juror/City Administrator Elijah Guillory. Retired

SU Ag Center Extension agent Donna Jones was also on hand to show support.

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 the 2010 Dietary Guidelines. Each day, participants work together to create an entire meal while learning healthy eating and physical activity principles, food preparation, kitchen and food safety, common cooking terms, proper food handling, measuring techniques, critical thinking and team building skills, planning and time management.

The funds awarded through the grant will provide support for community outreach to promote health and wellness among Lake Charles residents. During the store's grand opening, Sensley & McCarty conducted food demonstrations and provided nutrition information to attendees. More information is available at <http://on.fb.me/1PTxIhw>.



Award recipients from SU and LSU pose with check from Walmart



Youth participating in CHEF Camp demonstrate their skills

## BOLD Community Development Holds Football Banquet in St. Helena

St. Helena Programs philosophy is that athletics and academics go hand in hand. At every level, they develop well-rounded young men who learn the fundamentals of football as well as the importance of education in an atmosphere conducive to developing sound character while having a good time.

Heads Up Football® is a comprehensive program developed by USA Football to advance player safety in the game of football.

Building Opportunities through Leadership Development (BOLD)

Project at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center improves the leadership development capacity of rural and underserved communities throughout Louisiana.

The Heads Up Football® and BOLD partnered to invigorate youth in the St. Helena Lil League Football team. The Bidy Hawks beat the Hammond Saints in the Hammond Lil League Super Bowl Championship game. The Bidy Hawks also won the R.A.P. City Championship game.

“I’m proud of the eleven youth that played their hearts out each week. The youth showed hard work

and dedication this season; talent wins games but teamwork wins championships. I want to thank the coaches Anthony Baker and Clifton Holmes; you guys were amazing,” said Ahmad Robertson, Ag Agent in St. Helena Parish.



St. Helena Lil League Awards Banquet 4.0 Honor Roll Recipients



St. Helena Lil League Bidy Hawks 2015 Championship Team

The St. Helena Lil League Organization has four teams: 5-6 year old Bidy Hawks, 7-8 year old Baby Hawks, 9-10 year old Jr. Hawks, and 11-12 year old Hawks. Dr. Byron Hurst is the Lil League Commissioner and Founder.

BOLD held an awards banquet at St. Helena College & Career Academy where the following 5-6 year old youth received awards and honor achievements: Best Offensive Player was presented to Zane Martin; Best Defensive Player went to George Taylor; MVP was Kendyokee Smith; Most Potential was presented to Dallas Lowe; Most Improved was presented to Nasir Parker; Coaches Award went to Jamarius Hamler; and the Mr. Beast Mode recipient was Bradian Robertson. Team members on the 4.0 Honor Roll included: Bradian Robertson, Charlie Overton IV, Kendyokee Smith, and Trenidy Cornish.



## SU Ag Center Partners with St. James High School ProStart Program

The Southern University Ag Center's Ascension and St. James Parish Nutrition Educator, Lisa Weber, discussed the principles of food safety and lean proteins at St. James High School. The presentation was held during Mrs. Rachel Schexnayder's Nutrition and Foods class on December 2, 2015. Students participated in a class discussion and games to test their subject knowledge.

The Nutrition and Food course is a part of the state funded, Louisiana ProStart Graduation Pathway– A JumpStart Program. The ProStart Pathway curriculum prepares 9<sup>th</sup> - 12th graders for careers in nutrition and dietetics, food service management, food science and technology, hospitality and tourism and the culinary arts.

Core courses include: Advanced Nutrition and Foods, Agriscience and Leadership Development, Baking and Pastry Arts, Meat Processing, Culinary Occupations, Food Science and ServSafe test prep.

Upon completion of the curriculum, students will receive the National Restaurant Association's ProStart National Certificate of Achievement and a ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certificate.



Lisa Weber (in red shirt) poses with the Nutrition and Foods class at St. James High School.

For information on the Southern University Ag Center's nutrition programs, e-mail Ellen C. McKnight, SU Ag Center Extension Associate - Nutrition, Evaluation & Publication at [ellen\\_mcknight@suagcenter.com](mailto:ellen_mcknight@suagcenter.com) or visit [www.suagcenter.com](http://www.suagcenter.com).

# Strawberry Growers Learn how to Protect Berries from Freezing Temperatures

To have a rich strawberry harvest in the spring, the berries should be well protected against frost. With this season's plunging overnight temperatures, it is important to consider implementing a freeze protection plan for your strawberry buds and blossoms.



Ahmad Robertson (left in a black jacket), analyzes strawberries with Tangipahoa grower Frank Arnoe during a farm visit.

Temperature control is important during the winter and early spring when the flowers are susceptible to frost. Tangipahoa growers aren't taking any chances as they have an action plan of laying out row covers this winter. During recent farm visits with LSU Ag Center Specialists, Drs. Raj Singh and Kiki Fontenot, the team learned how commercial vegetable producers such as the Liuazza's, Faust's, Mendez's, Arnoe's, Capace's, and Holmes are protecting their crops and using integrated pest and disease management practices.

Strawberries are grown annually in Louisiana and have been an important horticulture crop for centuries. Both Tangipahoa and Livingston Parishes are traditional commercial production areas for the crop. These commercial growers started harvesting their berries in Mid-November. Production usually slows down during the winter and peaks again in March and April, just in time for the annual Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival.

It is recommended that strawberry growers cover their plants whenever the temperature drops below 35 degrees.

Currently, Louisiana commercial and home strawberry farmers should be protecting their green fruits and buds with row covers.

For additional information, contact the St. Helena or Tangipahoa Parish Extension Service Offices by calling (985) 748-5462, (225) 222-4136, or email [ahmad\\_robertson@suagcenter.com](mailto:ahmad_robertson@suagcenter.com).

For information on freeze terms and how they can affect plants, visit <http://goo.gl/wUIUud>.

## Experts Teach Small Farmers how to Manage Disease in Strawberries

SU Ag Center Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent Ahmad Robertson, Sr. coordinated efforts in teaching small farmers how to manage Phytophthora Crown Rot in Strawberries. Southern University Ag Center, along with state plant pathologists Drs. Raj Singh, Melanie Ivey and LSU AgCenter vegetable specialist Dr. Kiki Fontenot, recently visited several strawberry farms in St. Helena and Tangipahoa Parishes to assist farming operations suffering from crown, root and stem rots this winter.

The specialists provided the farmers with an action plan with control recommendations for insect and disease management.

Among other things, maintaining good sanitation of planting beds, inspecting plants, handling plants carefully, using crop rotation and planting resistant cultivars are great practices for disease management. Full details available at <http://suagcenter.blogspot.com/>. Contact Robertson in Tangipahoa at 985.748.9381, or in St. Helena at 225.222.4136.

## Master Gardener Trainees Graduate in Pointe Coupee Parish

The SU Ag Center's "Eradicating Food Deserts through the Development of School Gardens" project team is collaborating with LSU AgCenter's Master Gardeners program to train interested individuals. Mitchell Provensal was among recent program graduates in Pointe Coupee Parish.

"I just wanted to thank you again for giving me a spot in the Master Gardener course. We had a graduation ceremony last night and I will be an official Master Gardener once I complete my 40 volunteer hours! It was a really great experience and each class was loaded with information. I really appreciate it!" said Provensal.

The Louisiana Master Gardener program is a service and educational activity offered by the LSU AgCenter. The program is designed to recruit and train volunteers to help meet the educational needs

of home gardeners while providing an enjoyable and worthwhile service experience for volunteers.

Experienced and beginning gardeners seeking up-to-date horticultural information can advance their gardening expertise and gain self-satisfaction through volunteer efforts. The volunteer aspect of the Louisiana Master Gardener program allows individuals to dedicate their time and talents to enhancing the quality of life for citizens in their community by using the science and art of horticulture. It allows individuals to put into practice what they know and learn.

Tiffany Franklin, serves as Project Director on the Eradicating Food Deserts through the Development of School Gardens project, and works closely with Stephanie Elwood, Extension Associate, Community Gardens. Full details are available at <http://bit.ly/1QUzyCy>.



Master Gardener certificate

## SU Ag Center Helps make the Vision Clearer at local High Schools in 2016

On Wednesday, January 20, the Southern University Ag Center hosted a Vision Board Party for the Outstanding Mature Girlz (O.M.G.) Club at Kentwood High Magnet School. There were 40 young ladies in attendance, anxiously waiting to create a visual of positive affirmations that reflected their personal goals for 2016.

Vision boards are visual representations of what individuals envision for their lives. Individuals are encouraged to use personal photos or visual materials to define their year-long aspirations and goals.



Vision Board in the making



Vision Board Party attendees

“I was really excited to see so many young ladies include college on their vision boards, and they were also cutting out magazine clippings that represented our beloved Southern University,” said SU Ag Center’s Assistant Area Agent, Nicolette Gordon.

After the club members completed their vision boards they were instructed to hang their boards in a place where they could view their dreams and aspirations daily.

The next vision board party is scheduled to take place at St. Helena College & Career

Academy in February.

For more information about the O.M.G. Club, contact Nicolette Gordon in Tangipahoa at 985.748.9381, or in St. Helena at 225.222.4136.

## Caring for the Caregiver Workshop held in DeSoto Parish

The Homemakers club on Caring for the Caregiver enjoyed a workshop held in Stonewall, La. in DeSoto Parish on January 14. Participating homemakers gathered information on various topics including how to take care of their health; express their feelings; ask for help when needed; learn about the diseases afflicting their loved ones; ask professionals for help on locating available resources; look for signs of exhaustion; pursue a hobby or take classes to avoid being isolated; and take time for themselves. The total attendance was fourteen ladies. The ladies



Workshop participants flank coordinator Lee (seated)

reported that they gained information that they could use now and some that they will be able to use in the future. Several ladies had recently become caregivers and others said they expected to undertake caregiving responsibilities in the near future.

Patricia Lee, Assistant Area Agent in DeSoto/Caddo Parishes

coordinated the workshop and she can be reached by calling (318) 872-0533 or (318) 226-6805 or by emailing [PLee@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:PLee@agcenter.lsu.edu).

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Publication

**Fatemeh Malekian**, Southern University Ag Center professor of nutrition has published an article entitled "Nutritional Characteristics and Consumer Acceptability of Sausages with Different Combinations of Goat and Beef Meats," in the *Functional Foods in Health and Disease Journal* - Vol 6, No. 1, January 2016. You can find the article by following the link below:

<http://ffhdj.com/index.php/ffhd/issue/view/66>



Dr. Malekian

**Lisa Weber**, nutrition educator in St. James Parish is teaching youth at Fifth Ward Elementary Head Start Center about nutrition and how to make healthy choices. They recently learned the importance of healthy eating and “MyPlate”. They were read the fun book “the beastly feast” and talked about how the animals planned a fun celebration using lots of different foods. The story was followed by a circle dance entitled, “my plate pokey.”



Weber, seated with students

### SU Ag Center faculty receive awards

The Southern University Ag Center joined the LSU AgCenter, and its College of Agriculture in a ceremony held Dec. 16, 2015 at the Burden Botanic Gardens to recognize their faculty and staff awards winners.

Fatemah Malekian, professor of nutrition and food science, Southern University Ag Center was named the winner of the Chancellor’s Outstanding Research Scientist Award. Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, associate specialist in community and economic development received the Chancellor’s Outstanding Specialist Award. The winner of the Chancellor’s Outstanding Faculty Award was presented to Andra Johnson, (now assistant director of research in the School of Agriculture, Research, Extension and Applied Sciences at Alcorn State University). The full story is available at <http://goo.gl/uvHqHj>.



Award recipients, courtesy of LSU

**Curtis Chisley**, research associate and interim Livestock Show Director and **Angela Jackson**, administrative assistant, Office of Vice Chancellor for Extension, were featured in the *Advocate* newspaper for receiving the outstanding customer service awards from the Southern University Ag Center. Visit the [link](#) to read the story online.



Jackson



Chisley

# *Upcoming Events*

**February 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>:** Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices workshops at Rapides Parish Office, Alexandria. Contact [Achyut Adhikari](mailto:AchyutAdhikari@agcenter.lsu.edu), Assistant Professor - Extension Food Safety Specialist, LSU AgCenter. Please RSVP by February 20<sup>th</sup> to [ACAdhikari@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ACAdhikari@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Mr. Robert Williams at 225-578-2417.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices workshops at Lingo Center, Oak Grove. Contact [Achyut Adhikari](mailto:AchyutAdhikari@agcenter.lsu.edu),

Assistant Professor - Extension Food Safety Specialist, LSU AgCenter. Please RSVP by February 20<sup>th</sup> to [ACAdhikari@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ACAdhikari@agcenter.lsu.edu) or Mr. Robert Williams at 225-578-2417.

**March 3 - 5:** 73rd Annual Livestock Show at the Maurice A. Edmond Livestock Arena, Baton Rouge, LA. Contact Curtis Chisley at 225-771-5882 or [curtis\\_chisley@suagcenter.com](mailto:curtis_chisley@suagcenter.com)

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