

Southern University
Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Chancellor's report

Bobby R. Phillips

Presented to:
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Linking Citizens of Louisiana with Opportunities for Success

Scotlandville Promise Neighborhood: Community Collaboration to Improve the Scotlandville



Members of the Scotlandville Promise Neighborhood team 1-r: Dr. Melanie Johnson, Political Science; Dr. Sandra Brown, School of Nursing; Dr. Bobby R. Phills, Chancellor-Dean of the SU Ag Center - College of Agriculture; Dr. Michael A. Stubblefield, Vice Chancellor for Research and Strategic Initiatives; Dr. Renita Marshall, SU Ag Center - College of Agriculture; Dr. Revathi Hines, Political Science. Second row: Dr. Albert L. Samuels, Interim Dean of the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences; Dr. Erma Borskey, Social Work and Dr. Diana F. Kelly, College of Education. Team members not pictured are: Dr. Patrick Carriere, College of Engineering; Atty. Chris K. Odinet, Horatio C. Thompson Assistant Professor of Law and Louisiana Bar Foundation Scholar and Dr. Tiffany Franklin, SU Ag Center - College of Agriculture.

Photo by Chris Rogers, SU Ag Center - College of Ag.

Scotlandville is a historic community in North Baton Rouge, and the home of Southern University.

Southern University and A&M College, Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center, LSU, and other community stakeholders have partnered together to design and implement a community engagement effort known as the Scotlandville Promise Neighborhood.

This initiative is designed to improve health outcomes, increase economic potential, reduce incarceration rates, and improve graduation rates and college and career readiness within the Scotlandville community.

To support this effort, a team has submitted a proposal to the Promise Neighborhoods Program, a part of the White House Place-Based Initiatives, and if funded will bring over \$30 million into the community.

The initiative will focus its efforts in the Scotlandville community on Wellness, Early Childhood Development, K-12 Learning, College and Career Readiness and Family and Community Engagement. Under the charge and direction of the SU Office of Research & Strategic Initiatives, this cross – campus, cross disciplinary collaboration can truly make a difference.

The Promise Neighborhoods Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The program began in 2010 under the Obama Administration as a community revitalization effort that provides comprehensive, cradle-to-career support for students and families in distressed communities with a school centered approach. Visit our [blog](#).

For additional information on the Scotlandville Promise Neighborhood initiative, contact Renita W. Marshall, DVM, and associate professor at the SU Ag Center, at 225-771-2242.

SU Ag Center and College of Ag place third in Homecoming Parade

The 2016 Southern University Homecoming week was October 16-23 with activities culminating in a parade on Saturday leading into the SU vs University of Arkansas Pine Bluff football game.

For the first time, the Southern University Ag Center, along with students from the College of Agriculture, placed third in the Homecoming Parade under the category of “On Campus Floats.” Honors College took first place while second place went to Residential Life.

“I would like to take a moment to say thanks to the SU Ag Center/ College of Ag Homecoming Alumni Round-Up Committee members. The Alumni Round-Up (Tailgate) and Homecoming float decoration would not have happened without you. I would also like to say a very special thanks to the committee chairs: Kendrah Selders – Parade Float; Roosevelt Payne – Set-Up; Zanetta Augustine – SU Ag Center and

Fisher Hall Decoration/ Food Purchase; William Augustine – Take Down and our cooks, Burnell Muse; Curtis Chisley; William Augustine, Roosevelt Payne and Antonio Harris. Also to Dr.

Kenyetta Nelson-Smith and everyone who made a contribution for the float.

I have to also say thank you to the Communities of Color Network, Dr.

Fatemeh Malekian, Mfamara Goita, Dr. Renita Marshall and the Jags-In-Ag/ MANNRRS students who participated as exhibitor for the Student Health Center/SU Ag Center-College of Ag Homecoming Health Fair.

And last, but not least, thank you to Dr. Bobby R. Phills for supporting the Land-Grant Campus in this endeavor,” said LaKeeshia Lusk, SU Ag Center/ College of Ag Homecoming Alumni Round-Up Committee Chair.



SU Land-Grant Campus Float



Members of the SU Ag Center's Homecoming Float Committee left to right: DeCobea Butler, Kendrah Selders, Committee Chair; SU Ag Center Chancellor-College of Ag Dean Dr. Bobby R. Phills; Dr. Janana Snowden and LaKeeshia Lusk. Committee members not pictured are Dr. Renita Marshall, Dr. Tiffany Franklin, Dr. Marlin Ford and College of Ag students.

NASA Blueberry Alyssa Carson Visits St. Helena College & Career Academy

In honor of 4-H National Youth Science Day, students received a surprise visit from 15-year-old NASA Blueberry Alyssa Carson. Alyssa, who has dreamed of becoming an Astronaut since the age of three had some very encouraging words for 8th, 9th & 10th graders at St. Helena College & Career Academy. Carson, who is an active NASA Blueberry shared with youth that she spends a substantial amount of time researching various topics on Mars. Her main goal is to be one of the youngest Astronauts to go on a short mission to Mars, by the year 2020. As with many goals, preparation is the key ingredient and Alyssa's long list of impressive accomplishments puts her right on target.

Carson also advised youth interested in Aerospace to begin training at NASA Space Camps. These



L-R: Principal Reginald Douglas, St. Helena College & Career Academy; NASA Blueberry Alyssa Carson; Mr. Prasanna Epsri, Science Teacher, St. Helena College & Career Academy and Nicolette Gordon, SU Ag-Center Extension Agent.

camp provide simulated missions, engineer challenges, and sharpen leadership skills. She stated that she has already completed Space Camp Turkey, Space Camp Canada and will soon be one of the first to complete all NASA Space Camps in the world. Students were in awe, as Carson demonstrated with a basketball and string how far Earth is to Mars. The best analogy that Carson gave was to think about 300 football fields. Certainly, that raised many questions and peaked a lot of interest throughout the auditorium.

There are so many technological advances taking place daily in space, and she concluded by reminding youth that they are the "Mars Generation."

Read more on our [blog](#) about this article written by Nicolette Gordon, St. Helena Area Agent.

SU Ag Center Celebrates Science Week with Audubon Elementary School



First place winners flanked by Ms. Thomas, left and Dr. Bandele: Kyree Langley; Jade Gilmore; Danasha Anderson; Myron Daniels; and Samuel Brook

Ms. Sharon C. Thomas, Instructional Specialist, Audubon Elementary School extended an invitation for the SU Ag Center to provide experiences for the

November 2016

students and families with demonstrations or presentations throughout the week of October 24-28, 2016. As part of the school's science initiative, the 4th and 5th grade students participated in the first "Science Quiz Bowl," which was sponsored by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and moderated by Dr. Owusu Bandele, Professor Emeritus.

The Science Quiz Bowl was held on October 25 on the campus of Audubon Elementary School. Teachers competed against the students and the students won first place.

Additionally, Ms. Frankie Poland, Regional Coordinator of the SU Ag Center's Communities of Color Network shared information on the negative impacts of smoking and use of tobacco products with the event participants during the science week celebration.

Throughout the week, the school had guest speakers and demonstrators who gave presentations to students as well as allowed students to participate in hands-on experiments.

SU Ag Center Research Scientist Presents at International Conference in Malaysia

Kit L. Chin, SU Ag Center – College of Agriculture Professor of Horticulture, made an oral presentation at the 3rd International Conference on Mass Spectrometry held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 10-11. The focus of his scientific presentation was on the use of LC/UV/MS method for qualitative and quantitative analyses of phytochemicals present in the leaves of various species of Roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*). He received a certificate of recognition for his phenomenal presentation.

In addition, Dr. Chin served as chair and judge on poster presentations of the scientific session on Fertilizer & Pesticide/Agriculture & Food Security/Agricultural Production Systems/Crop Sciences at the 7th Global Summit on Agriculture & Horticulture also held in Kuala Lumpur, October 17-19. He

received certificates of recognition for his chairmanship, judgeship and oral presentation titled, "Organic Fertilizer Effect on Nutritional Elements, total Polyphenol and Antioxidant Content of Roselle Hibiscus."

During his visit to Hanoi, Vietnam, Dr. Chin held a productive meeting and discussion with the key administration and scientists of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology and hibiscus farmers to formulate a collaborative research agenda that will enhance capacity building in roselle hibiscus research for both Vietnam growers and Louisiana Farmers.



Dr. Chin receives certificate of recognition from Dr. Purushottam Chakraborty from Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, India



Dr. Chin presented with certificates of recognition for the chairmanship and judgeship of the session.

Matching Disaster Relief Contractors with Opportunities Following Historic Flood

The Director of Center for Rural and Small Business Development Gloria London and Business Development Specialist Eual Hall participated in a Match-making event on September 15. The event drew the likes of FEMA, NAICS, SBA, SBA HUD, and many other Government Agencies to connect Disaster Recovery Contractors with Opportunities and benefits at the



Event participants receive pertinent information from presenters

Blue Bonnet Library in Baton Rouge. CRSBD staff provided small business owners and contractors with material, documents, pamphlets and brochures that broadened their awareness to the policies and procedures which can help vendors win contracts. It also equipped participants to receive one-on-one counseling on how to access information on

contracting required due to flooding. More than 250 participants gained knowledge and information during the workshops on how to successfully apply to FEMA and other agencies' rules and guidelines.

SU Ag Center holds Disaster Recovery Resources Fair at SU Law Center

On October 15, SU Ag Center staff members Eual Hall, Business Development Specialist and William Augustine, Research Associate, participated in the Disaster Recovery Resource Fair hosted by the State of Louisiana, City of Baton Rouge, FEMA and HUD held at the Southern University Law Center. Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF) worked collaboratively with federal, state, and local governments along with Non-Government Organizations and private sector partners to provide an array of resources and services. For example, housing counseling; flood insurance; individual assistance; legal services; mitigation crises clean-up/debris removal;



Event participant receives information from Mr. Hall

workforce development; disaster recovery information; and social supportive services were available.

The Disaster Recovery Resource Fair was a monumental success due to the collaborative efforts of all parties involved. With only two weeks lead time, the Housing RSF Team called on all the agency partners to tap into their capacity to provide resources to make the event a huge success. The event was a great opportunity for

500+ survivors to get critical information in a friendly environment. According to FEMA Individual Assistance Division, services were provided to 150 survivors during the fair. "The

partnership developed with the Southern University Law Center will also be advantageous as we expand into other impacted areas. The need to reach out to survivors continues with the help of events such as the Disaster Recovery Resource Fair. The work to

make the Fair such a success, is a model template of how we should continue to push to meet the needs of survivors and address the challenges of DR 4263 & 4277 going forward,” said Hall.

[SU Ag Center holds Health Fair at Turner Chapel AME Church in Greensburg](#)

The Center for Rural and Small Business located at the SU Ag Center, participated in a Health Fair at Turner Chapel AME Church, Greensburg, LA on September 11. Faith-based and religious organizations are discovering the educational health needs of their members that can potentially reduce absenteeism due to sickness, financial cost to each member, while increasing the focus on eating healthy foods. Religious leaders indicate that the need for consuming healthy foods is at the top of the chart. A high percentage of youth and adults now consume foods that cause diabetes resulting in



heart disease and other health problems.

Participants had the opportunity to be screened for seven different types of medical conditions valued in excess of \$150.

Of the 150 participants in the health fair, many commented that there was a need to schedule a

health fair in each quarter of the year to help increase early detection of various health conditions which result in saving lives and money.

[SU Ag Center faculty works with Kiwanis Club to secure grant for disaster relief](#)

Fatemeh Malekian, Professor of food science and nutrition at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and member of the Baton Rouge Early Risers Kiwanis club, serves as faculty advisor to the Key Club at the Southern University Laboratory (SU Lab) School. Dr. Malekian has served in different capacities including president, lieutenant governor, and Key Club advisor thus far.

After the historic flood of 2016 in Louisiana, a number of families at the Southern University Lab School lost everything. The Baton Rouge Early Risers Kiwanis Club with Malekian’s leadership, partnered with the PTO/Kitten Club of SU Lab to write a Disaster Relief grant to assist the families impacted by the flood. The funds received from Kiwanis International will help in creating a service

project to meet the needs of North Baton Rouge residents in their recovery efforts.

On October 28, during the Southern University Lab School homecoming football game, Dr. Fatemeh Malekian and two other members of the Kiwanis Club, Morgan Watson and Raymond Locket, presented a check in the amount of \$4,910.00 to the SU Lab School Foundation. This fund will be used to replace necessary items for students, and assist the Key Club members in conducting service projects wherever necessary in the community around the campus.

“I am very proud to be able to assist our own Southern University Lab School students. They are

a part our campus family, our future students at Southern University and future leaders,” said Fatemeh.

Key Club is an international service leadership organization for teens, which teaches leadership through service to others.

Click [here](#) for more details on the check presentation to SU Lab School Foundation or visit our [blog](#).

[Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives Educates Rural Youth on Careers in Agriculture](#)

Staff at the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives participated in the 19th Annual Career Futures Expo on October 26 at Northwest High School in St. Landry Parish. Each of the nearly 1,200 student in the 10th grade from St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes traveled to explore the different career paths. The event was hosted by the St. Landry and Evangeline Parish Chambers of Commerce; St. Landry & Evangeline Career & Technical Education Programs; and the St. Landry & Evangeline Parish School Boards. The event was designed to help 10th grade students identify and explore career interests while providing them the opportunity to interact with professionals looking to the future and exploring their options. “I was very amazed and impressed by the students’ knowledge and interest in our field,” said Kayla Fontenot, youth agent. The staff of the Southwest Center also took the opportunity to speak with the students, and promote the (BAYOU) program and ultimately attending Southern

University’s College of Agriculture post-graduation. “Recruitment starts early, so if we can introduce



Harris and Washington, left share information about careers in agriculture

them to the College of Agriculture in 10th grade; we are planting the seed for them to become future Jaguars and ultimately leaders in Ag,” said Krystle Washington, Extension Agent in St. Landry Parish.

To read more about the event and see additional pictures, please visit the [Daily World](#).

[St. Landry Parish Ag/Garden Education Program on the MOVE!](#)

If anyone knows the mental, physical, educational, and health benefits of exposing youth to gardening, it is Mr. Antonio Harris.

As a lifelong gardener and resident of St. Landry Parish, Mr. Harris succeeded in lobbying the school board to approve the Southwest Center's newest program, Youth Grow. "Youth Grow" is a children's gardening program aimed at

developing sustainable garden education programs that connect kids to nature, educate youth on the benefits of consuming fresh-grown food, and provide interdisciplinary learning opportunities. Using the garden programs, Youth Grow creates a pathway for increasing and introducing agriculture engagement within the school community. Through the use of lesson plans, students will learn Social Studies, Math, English and Language Arts, Physical

Science, Life Science, and Earth Science. Our new Youth Grow program has been approved at all St.

Landry Parish Elementary Schools. St. Landry Parish serves as a pilot to the full potential of the program, which aims at having raised bed gardens at each elementary school within the ten (10) parishes served by the Southwest Center.



Students and teachers at Washington Elementary

"These gardens give us the opportunities to not only introduce youth to agriculture and gardening at an early age, but also Southern University," said Chasity Johnson, youth agent in St. Landry Parish.

Students and teachers at Washington Elementary planted cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower in their four new raised-bed gardens supplied and installed by the Southwest Center/Southern University Ag Center.

[SU Ag Center Team Participates in National Extension Annual Meeting](#)

Members of the Southern University Ag Center attended the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences annual meeting held Sept. 12-15 in Big Sky, Montana. Fatemeh Malekian, Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences, made a presentation in conjunction with the National Health Literacy Action Team. During the interactive presentation, the audiences used their cell phones and contributed information to the importance of Health Literacy at the national level,

and the development of a tool kit that everyone, especially extension agents can use.

Other members of the Southern University Ag Center team in attendance were the Louisiana Association President Carolyn Robinson, Associate Area Agent-FCS in East Carroll, West Carroll and Morehouse Parishes; and Dr. Kasundra Cyrus, Extension Specialist, Family and Human Development.

[SU Ag Center holds Urban Outreach Forum in New Orleans](#)

On September 7, Business Development Specialist Eual Hall and Extension Specialist Kenyetta Nelson- Smith, Ph.D., participated in an Urban Outreach Forum at Two Sisters in City Park, New Orleans.

The objectives of the Forum were to:

1. Obtain an assessment of residents in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes and form committees to address the issues

2. Identify and build partnerships among civic, non-profit, government, and university groups.
3. Establish the process of developing a sustainable urban program.
4. Develop and customize outreach initiatives to reach a broader spectrum of populations and needs
5. Open dialogue with diverse clientele groups
6. Execute the plans resulting from the forum's interaction in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

Some situations that need to be addressed include:

- a. What do the citizens need to succeed?
- b. What are the limitations, and what is needed to initiate programs?

- c. What collaboration and opportunities can be developed, and what action plans can be set in motion?
- d. What information is needed?
- e. What groups need the most or largest amount of information?
- f. What problems can be solved at home before coming to the forum meeting?
- g. How will the first line of action be determined to provide assistance?
- h. How will the goals be made attainable for residents with the most needs?

Expected Outcome: To improve economic conditions, reduce poverty, and increase wealth.

[SU All-Star Scholar kicks-off Campus Recycling Initiative](#)

Kalaia Tripeaux, a Southern University Urban Forestry major and the University's 2016 HBCU All-Star Scholar, kicked-off a University-wide recycling initiative on Wednesday, Oct. 19 during the Annual Homecoming Student Health Fair in the Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union.

All Southern University students, faculty and staff are asked to bring plastic bottles and clean paper to be recycled during the event.

Tripeaux is hosting the event as her campus initiative, which each HBCU All-Star is required to

conduct. The 21-year-old Baton Rouge native was selected as one of 73 students from a national pool of 300 candidates to be named the 2016 White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) All-Stars.

The All-Stars, which are comprised of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, are being recognized for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

Read more on the [blog](#).

FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES



Jessie Clark harvesting sweet potatoes at North City Park Community Garden

The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives maintains several community gardens throughout St. Landry Parish. Throughout the year, the garden and land are cared for by Jessie Clark. Recently, Jessie and the Southwest Center staff harvested sweet potatoes from the North City Park Community Garden in Opelousas. The garden is located within a low-income housing area, and was constructed through a partnership with the Opelousas Housing Authority. The sweet potatoes harvested were given to residents to ensure they would have fresh produce. "We see the blue van working out here all the time, and really feel blessed when they provide us what they grow," said a resident.

Krystle Washington serves as Extension Agent in St. Landry Parish.



Doze Butler, Ph.D., College of Agriculture associate dean received the Baton Rouge Area Volunteer Activists (BRAVA) award on November 4, 2016, at the Renaissance Hotel.

Butler was among nine others receiving a BRAVA award at The Emerge Center's 45th annual benefit luncheon. The awards luncheon, presented by Capital One Bank, Fishman Haygood, Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry, and The Advocate, benefits The Emerge Center for Communication, Behavior, and Development.

Patricia Lee, Assistant Family and Consumer Science Agent in DeSoto and Caddo Parishes participated in the Louisiana State Fair for Senior Day in Shreveport on October 27. More than 2,000 senior citizens attended the event and Ms. Lee provided seniors with information on living and eating healthy, as well as pamphlets on quick nutritious and easy recipes for healthy dishes such as veggie/fruit smoothies. Some of the information available focused on tips for purchasing and storing whole grain foods, improving meals with vegetables and fruits, eating out and stretching the food dollars. Many more items including sample exercises were shared to enhance and improve the lives of seniors.



Patricia Lee, center in blue, interacts with seniors at fair

Butler has worked closely with Habitat for Humanity, and served on its board of directors for six years. She even incorporates the Habitat for Humanity in her lesson plans, allowing students extra credit for participating at a site and providing a write up about the experience.

Butler is no stranger to receiving awards, in 2011 and again in 2013, she was awarded for her volunteerism. Butler was one of Capital Area United Way/Volunteer United's 2011 "Power of 9" honorees at a luncheon held at Boudreaux's Restaurant. Lynn Clark, the person who nominated Butler for the BRAVA award, said, "Doze's continued support of Habitat is changing lives. Her

passion and commitment are providing a better future for generations."

In 2013, "Heals the Hurt Incorporated" awarded Butler the Community Service Champion award for her mentorship.

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center Chancellor-Dean, Bobby R. Phills had this to say about Butler's recent honor, "I am delighted that one of our senior faculty members and administrators is receiving this award, however I am not surprised, given that she is a member of the executive team and as such we continually promote community service and certainly this award is indicative of what we strive for. Helping the

community whether it is volunteering or it's our job performance, she continually displays that land-grant service attitude, so I am pleased to join with others in congratulating her on being the recipient of this award."

Butler and others receiving the award are doing so based on their history of volunteering and service throughout the Baton Rouge community. This will be Butler's third major award for her service.

"When we are blessed we must be a blessing to other people.... time, talent, and treasure, we are given these to bless other people with them," said Butler.