



# SEEDS *of* SUCCESS

A Monthly Newsletter of the Southern University Ag Center, College of Ag, and Chancellor's Report



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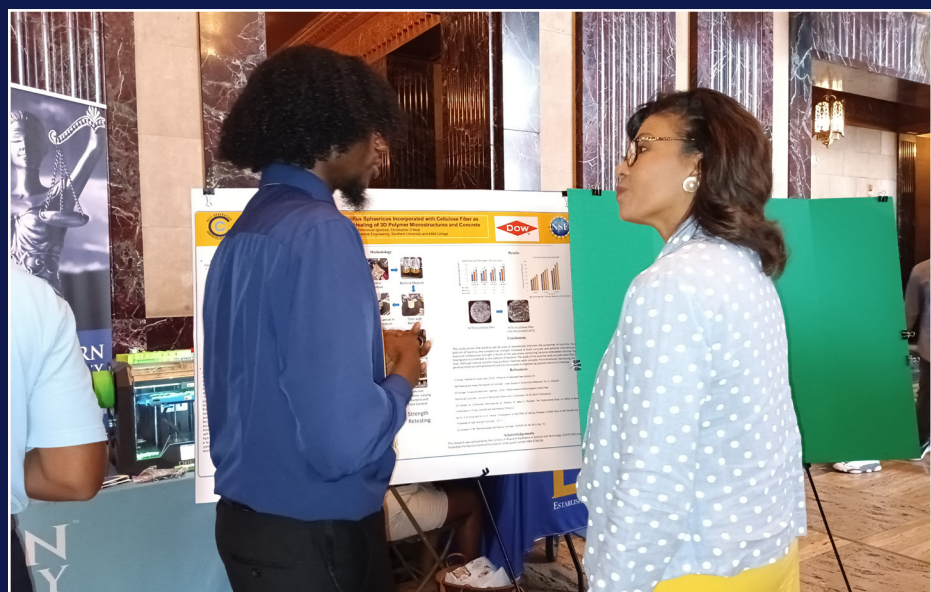


# HBCU AND SU DAYS *at the* CAPITOL

The Ag Center and the College of Ag participated in both the HBCU and SU Days at the Capitol on March 19 and April 9, respectively.

HBCU Day was held at the Capitol Park Museum and SU Day was held in the Rotunda of the Louisiana State Capitol. During both events, staff and students had the opportunity to share information on the Center and the College with legislators and individuals visiting the facilities.

These events are held annual during the state's regular legislative session to highlight the programs and students produced by Louisiana's HBCU and the Southern University System.









# TEACHING



## The SU College of Ag Held Its Spring 2024 Fashion Week

Students in the SU College of Ag's Fashion Merchandising, Design and Textiles Program and the FAB Lab held the Spring 2024 Fashion Week April 15-19, 2024.

The "Fit Check x Mic Check" Fashion Industry Panel and Brunch was held on April 16 in Café Lacumba. The panel consisted of four individuals working in the fashion industry. Each panelist discussed their career paths, setbacks that they encountered, and their successes with the students. Brunch was catered by the Southern University Dietetic Internship students and Fashion Promotion students served as the host for the event.

The "Pop-up x Cash Out" Fashion and Food Fest was held on the lawn of Pinkie Thrift Hall on April 17. The event featured over 20 vendors and special

appearances.

The "Rhythm x Threads Fashion Show" was held on April 18 on the lawn of Pinkie Thrift Hall. The fashion show included local and student designers and models. The show also featured the FAB LAB Fashion Design Entrepreneurs.

The week also included a toiletry donation drive and concluded with a pre-loved clothing convention.

For additional information on the Fashion Merchandising, Design and Textiles Program or the Fab Lab contact, Dr. Samii Kennedy Benson, Assistant Professor of Fashion Merchandising, Design and Textiles and the Interim Chair of the Department of Human Sciences at [samii.kennedybenson@subr.edu](mailto:samii.kennedybenson@subr.edu).





# TEACHING





# SU College of Ag Students Participate in the 2024 MANRRS Conference

Members of the Southern University Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Chapter attended the organization's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference and Career Expo in Chicago, IL March 20-24, 2024. This conference, known for bringing together top industry professionals, scholars, and students in the agricultural and natural resources fields, offers attendees a unique opportunity to engage in networking, professional development, and career advancement. The Southern University MANRRS Chapter members had the chance to participate in workshops, seminars, and panel discussions led by experts in the field, gaining valuable insights and knowledge to propel their careers forward.

Attending the MANRRS conference provided the students with an opportunity to learn from industry leaders. The conference's Career Expo offered a valuable opportunity for students to connect with potential employers, explore internship opportunities, and lay the groundwork for future career success. By attending this conference, the members not only expanded their knowledge and skills but also built important relationships and connections that can pave the way for their future success in the agricultural and natural resources industries.

As representatives of Southern University, these students had the chance to highlight the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and excellence in the agricultural field. By participating in this prestigious conference, the Southern University MANRRS Chapter members are not only furthering their own education and careers but also contributing to the broader goal of promoting diversity and innovation in the agricultural industry. We wish them success as they embarked on this exciting opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with like-minded individuals passionate about making a positive impact in the field of agricultural and natural resources.





# TEACHING

## 2024 Quilt Design Summer Camp Set For Youth Ages 14-17

The Southern University College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES) Fashion Merchandising, Design and Textiles Program will hold its 2024 Quilt Design Summer Camp from June 17 – June 28, 2024.

The camp will operate from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday – Friday, for students aged 14 – 17 in Pinkie Thrift Hall on the campus of Southern University.

Participants will learn quilting techniques and complete a quilt to take home.

To register, complete the registration form at <https://bit.ly/3LZlpGL> and email it to [jungim\\_seo@subr.edu](mailto:jungim_seo@subr.edu). The registration deadline is May 31, 2024. There is no registration fee for this camp.

The camp is limited to 12 participants who will be notified of their acceptance by June 5, 2024.

For additional information on the 2024 Quilt Design Summer Camp contact, Dr. Jung-Im Seo, SU CAHES Associate Professor at 225-771-4290 or email her at [jungim\\_seo@suagcenter.com](mailto:jungim_seo@suagcenter.com).

## SU Ag Center to Host a Hip Hop to Gen Z Camp

The SU Ag Center's Hip Hop to Gen Z Camp is designed for students in grades 6th – 12th with a passion for music. This STEM-focused program covers a diverse range of topics linking music to STEM career fields. The camp will be held from June 3 - 14, 2024 on the Southern University campus.

To register visit:  
<https://foundation.sus.edu/hip-hop-to-gen-z/>





# SU College of Ag Set to Hold Fashion Design & Apparel Entrepreneurship Summer Camp

The Fashion and Business Laboratory (FAB Lab) in the SU College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES) will host its 2024 Youth Leadership Program LEVEL UP summer camp for youth ages 12-18.

This year, the camp will hold two levels. The first level will be for beginning sewists and will be held from July 8-12. The second level will be open to intermediate or advanced sewists and will be held from July 29 – Aug 2. Both camps will operate from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the FAB Lab inside Pinkie Thrift Hall.

During the camp, students will learn about textiles, fashion design, and apparel entrepreneurship.

To apply, the student must write a one-page essay explaining his/her interest in fashion and apparel entrepreneurship or their previous experience in sewing, and highlight their leadership skills and academic excellence, along with a \$25 registration fee and a completed waiver form.

To register visit, <https://foundation.sus.edu/the-fab-lab/>.

The registration deadline for the level 1 camp is July 1, 2024 and July 22, 2024 for level 2. A limited number of 20 participants will be accepted in both camps.

For additional information about the FAB Lab and its Youth Leadership Program's summer camp contact, Dr. Samii Kennedy Benson, Assistant Professor of Fashion Merchandising, Design and Textiles in the CAHES at [samii\\_kennedybenson@subr.edu](mailto:samii_kennedybenson@subr.edu).



## College of Ag Students Christian Jacobs and Kailynn Williams Were Selected as MANRRS VIP Farm Credit Scholars

SU College of Ag students Christian Jacobs and Kailynn Williams were selected as VIP Farm Credit Scholars for this year's MANRRS Annual Training Conference and Career Expo. Their exceptional leadership, dedication to agricultural innovation, and commitment to diversity and inclusion in the field have set them apart as outstanding scholars in the agricultural community. This recognition not only highlights their academic achievements and contributions to the agricultural industry but also underscores their potential to make a significant impact as future leaders in the field.

As VIP Farm Credit Scholars, Christian and Kailynn had the opportunity to engage with industry professionals, network with fellow scholars, and showcase their research and achievements at the conference. This recognition not only serves as a testament to their hard work and dedication but also positions them as role models for aspiring agricultural professionals. It also speaks to their potential to drive positive change and innovation in the agricultural industry, and we look forward to seeing the lasting impact they will have on the field.



# EXTENSION

Center



The procurement conference was co-sponsored by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Louisiana Economic Development (LED), and the Louisiana APEX Accelerator.

For additional information, email Brian Phillips, Ph.D., Interim Conference Director at [brian\\_phillips@suagcenter.com](mailto:brian_phillips@suagcenter.com).



## SU Ag Center Held Its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Development & Procurement Conference

The Southern University Ag Center held its 19th Annual Connecting Businesses to Contracts: From Local to Global Business Development and Procurement Conference on April 11, 2024. The conference, which was themed, “Back on the Bluff,” was held at the Southern University Smith-Brown Student Union and the Valdry Center for Philanthropy on Southern University’s campus.

The conference provided an opportunity for the small business communities to network with each other, larger companies, and government agencies aimed at growing their businesses.

Attendees received information on procurement readiness, the requirements needed to contract with federal, state, and local government agencies, and financing methods.

Sessions covered during the conference included:

- Marketing Strategies – Developing and Implementing Successfully
- Client Value Creation, Maintaining Integrity, Organizational Development
- Breaking the Lending Code
- Registrations and Certifications Clinics





# EXTENSION



## SU Ag Center Holds Community Health Fairs Throughout the State

The Southern University Ag Center held five Spring Health Fairs in parishes around the state from March 5 – April 13, 2024.

The free health fairs were held in Lake Providence, Mansura, Bastrop, Opelousas, and Baton Rouge and provided health screenings, physical activities, free food and music, community resources, fresh produce, haircuts, fruit trees, flowering plants, and entertainment for youth in underserved areas.

“These health fairs are more than just events; they are a testament to our commitment to improving access to the most needed health screenings, services, and resources,” expressed Jasmin Matthews, Assistant Public Health Specialist at the SU Ag Center. “Through these efforts, we can address health disparities and unite communities. ‘Health unites us, community defines us’ is not just a slogan; it’s our mission,” added Matthews.

“We are excited for these health fairs happening all over the state because we are bridging the gap between communities and essential services,” echoed Si-Arah Jones, Assistant Specialist and Nutrition and Field Coordinator for SNAP-Ed at the SU Ag Center. “This will empower individuals to take charge of their own health, thus contributing to a healthier community,” stated Jones.

The SU Ag Center hosted the health fairs through a partnership with the Southern University Baton Rouge campus and the Louisiana Department of Health. This initiative is a leap forward in enhancing COVID-19 outcomes, reducing health disparities, and promoting diversity in Louisiana’s healthcare sector.

For additional information on the health fairs contact, Jasmin Matthews at [jasmin\\_plowe@suagcenter.com](mailto:jasmin_plowe@suagcenter.com) or Si-Arah Jones at [siarah\\_mccray@suagcenter.com](mailto:siarah_mccray@suagcenter.com).





# EXTENSION



## SU Ag Center's SNAP/EFNEP Nutrition Education Program Begins 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of Facebook Live Series

The Nutrition, Health, and Wellness Department of the SU Ag Center began conducting its 9<sup>th</sup> annual virtual Facebook Live Nutrition Education and Physical Activity Series through its SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs in late April.

SNAP began this online programming in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To better serve the community during a time when “face-to-face” communication was limited, the program created an innovative way to reach audiences without contact.

The online programming has since been a popular addition to the SNAP-Ed/EFNEP initiatives. Now, since the ending of many COVID-19 restrictions, online programming allows the nutrition program to not only expand its audience but also take the lead on teaching nutrition to communities who may not be able to get their services in-person. Since series 8, the Nutrition Education Program's online episodes have reached over 4,000 viewers.

The Spring 2024 episodes featured various nutrition educators from throughout the 13 parishes served by the SNAP-Ed/EFNEP programs with lessons on nutrition education, physical activity, and gardening. The 9<sup>th</sup> Facebook Live Nutrition Education, Physical Activity, and Gardening Series began on Monday, April 29, 2024 and will end on Tuesday, June 10, 2024.

The topics in the episodes included Pool Noodle Exercises for Physical Activity, cooking Italian Chicken, a Sheet Pan Recipe food demonstration, Good vs. Bad fats Nutrition Lessons, a Simple Lunches for Work and School food demonstration, a 5 Minute Chair Cardio Physical Activity, and a Spring gardening lesson.

Watch any of the lessons on the SNAP-Ed Facebook page at, SUAg SNAP-Ed.





# Autism Awareness Breakfast

SU Ag Center's Family and Consumer Sciences Educator Stacey Nevills-Brady, along with Judge Ledricka Thierry and Opelousas Elderly Awareness, hosted an "Autism Awareness Breakfast" at the Yambilee Building in Opelousas, La on April 2, 2024.

This event was a kickoff to activities going on during the month of April, which was Autism Awareness Month. Guests enjoyed breakfast, musical selections from students in the parish, vendor information, and door prizes. Vanessa Lomas, President of the Autism Society of Acadiana, served as the event's guest speaker and presented the guests with autism statistics and resources.

The month of activities culminated with an Autism Bike Ride in the city on April 19 at 7 p.m. and Autism Day in the Park on April 27.

For additional information on the Autism Awareness Breakfast contact Mrs. Nevills-Brady at [stacey\\_nevills@suagcenter.com](mailto:stacey_nevills@suagcenter.com).



## SU Ag Center's SNAP-Ed Nutrition Program Brings Back Its "C.H.E.F." Summer Camp for Youth

As part of the SNAP-Ed Nutrition Program's research-based nutrition education initiatives, the program will host several summer camps in the parishes they serve with the hopes of introducing healthier lifestyles to children and teens.

The Creating Healthy Enjoyable Foods (C.H.E.F.) Camp provides youth cooking camps in several parishes throughout the state. 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.

Each day, participants will 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, team building skills, and planning and time management.

This year, the camps will take place in Avoyelles, Union, Morehouse, Madison, East Baton Rouge, and East and West Carroll parishes throughout June and July 2024.





# RESEARCH

*Center*

## The SU Ag Center is Researching Animal Production Systems

Animal production systems involve different aspects of agriculture (plant and soil sciences, animal nutrition, environmental sciences, etc.) for the utilization of resources to convert into animal products with little to no diminishment to the environment; therefore, a main focus of this research is sustainable agriculture.

This practice is applied to the work that Dr. Dana Pollard, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, is conducting with small ruminants at Southern University. This forage study is intertwined with an early weaning study which utilizes the offspring of the forage study to see the most suitable option (time and milk replacer) to be applied to an operation.

Research has also been undertaken to identify and evaluate the prevalence of pathogenic *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in small ruminants, especially since they are under-researched vehicles for such pathogens.

In addition to small ruminants, this type of agriculture has been applied to monogastric organisms such as poultry and rabbits. A monogastric has one stomach that is one compartment, and with the poultry, different sources of calcium were assessed in their ability to affect the eggshell quality of Leghorn hens. Rabbits are being studied in a similar way, but with a commercial pre- and probiotic mix to see how it would affect growth performance, feed efficiency, and feed intake.

For additional information on this research please contact Dr. Dana Pollard at, [dana\\_pollard@suagcenter.com](mailto:dana_pollard@suagcenter.com).





# Faculty & Staff HIGHLIGHTS



## Dr. Donovan Segura Was Sworn In As the New President of COMPA

Dr. Donovan Segura, Associate Vice Chancellor for Compliance at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SU Ag Center) and Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration at Southern University and A&M College was recently announced as the 47th President of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA).

"I am deeply honored and humbled to serve as the National President of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators," said Dr. Segura. "I am excited about the opportunity to work alongside talented colleagues and stakeholders from across the nation to further our mission and drive positive change in our community."

Under Dr. Segura's guidance, COMPA will continue to uphold its commitment to promote excellence in public service and administration in university settings and within city, county, state, and national government operations while also embracing innovation and adaptation in an ever-changing landscape. With a strong emphasis on collaboration and inclusivity, Dr. Segura is dedicated to fostering a culture of teamwork and empowerment that will continue to elevate the organization.

"We are living in a new era of diversity management. Globalization has transformed society, economics, and politics," expressed Dr. Segura. "Thus, greatly influencing demographics within the workplace. Not only are today's employees more diverse, but they also represent a sea of change and leadership styles. Based on this premise, it is quintessential the workplace provides a culture that is inclusive across equity lines for all persons. It is my goal to continue to secure challenging new opportunities where skills, knowledge, data-driven approaches, and my previous experiences in compliance can be applied, and further professional development can be achieved," he added.

Dr. Segura is the second individual to serve as COMPA's President from Southern University's Baton Rouge land mass. His presidency represents a new chapter in the rich history of COMPA, marked by bold leadership and a steadfast dedication to excellence.

The Conference of Minority Public Administrators is a national organization that was founded in 1971. It was originally established as a section of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) to provide a forum for leadership and professional development for minority students, public servants, administrators, and governmental officials. With more than 50 years of service, COMPA has established itself as one of America's leading national public service organizations.

It has a vision of promoting excellence in public service and administration in university settings and in city, county, state, and national government operations.



# COMMUNICATIONS



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SU Ag Center's latest  
Podcast by visiting:

[www.suagcenter.com/page/su-ag-podcast](http://www.suagcenter.com/page/su-ag-podcast)



# SU, AG PODCAST

*"Everyday we use some form of agriculture,  
from the time we wake up, until we go to bed.  
From clothing, gasoline, food, and bed linens  
— agriculture is all around us!"*

**Join us as we interview your Ag favorites,  
and bring you agriculture news.**

*Hosted by:*  
**Dexter "Dex" Newman**





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