



chancellor's AGTOBER 2020 Mc Report



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/Associate Dean

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

CALVIN WALKER
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Director of SUAREC Special Projects
Interim Vice-Chancellor
for Research & Technology Development

AUTISM HASH.H.O.P.E

Southern University Ag Center Launches Medical Cannabis Product Line for Autism



HOPE™ is the state's first Medical Cannabis Product scientifically formulated for Autism patients of all ages

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, with Ilera Holistic Healthcare, on October 1, 2020 announced the statewide launch of the HOPE™ line of medical cannabis tinctures based on groundbreaking scientific research on using cannabis to treat the symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in both children and adults.

Grown, cultivated, processed and packaged in Louisiana, HOPE™ products are available exclusively through state-licensed medical marijuana pharmacies and available to all Louisiana patients and families through a doctor's prescription.

After seeing the success of HOPE™ in Pennsylvania, we were determined to bring it to patients of Louisiana, a state where we exceed the national percentage of autism diagnoses--while at-risk and under-served patients still struggle to receive safe and effective healthcare," says Ilera Holistic CEO Dr. Chanda Macias. "Louisiana families deserve full access to all the benefits that cannabis medicine can provide, and we are thrilled to have HOPE™ in this market and available to everyone."

Scientific research shows cannabis to be safe and effective on patients (including children) to treat ASD, and patients who use it have reported significant improvement in their quality of life, mood, and sleep--and less reliance on other medications.

HOPE™ is the brainchild of Erica Daniels, founder of Hope Grows for Autism, a nonprofit aimed at improving the lives of families affected by autism through research, education and advocacy of medical marijuana.

"The autism community in Louisiana is blessed to have a partner in Ilera Holistic Healthcare to bring HOPE™ to families affected by ASD," says Daniels. "Now more than ever, patients are struggling with the symptoms associated with autism. I am so thrilled that Ilera Holistic Healthcare is bringing HOPE™ to so many Louisiana patients who need it!"

"HOPE™ is another product with which we are proud to be associated," said Janana Snowden Ph.D., director of the Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center. "The work we do aims to not only provide valuable research but to also provide potentially beneficial and accessible treatments for symptoms due to conditions that thousands of people live with daily, like autism."

HOPE™ was formulated by Zelira Therapeutics a leading global therapeutic medical cannabis company with access to the world's largest and fastest growing cannabis markets. The company's focus is on developing branded cannabis products for the treatment of a variety of medical conditions including insomnia, autism and chronic non-cancer pain.

HOPE™ is gluten, dairy, soy and nut-free; scientifically formulated, lab tested, and pesticide free; and only available in the state of Louisiana at licensed cannabis pharmacies. HOPE™ will be available in two formulations: "HOPE1," a 1:1 THC:CBD tincture, and "HOPE2", a 5:1 THC:CBD tincture. View the list of Louisiana Licensed Dispensaries.



About the Southern University Ag Center

The Southern University Ag Center is the fifth campus of the Southern University System. The mission of the Center is to conduct basic and applied research and disseminate information to the citizens of Louisiana in a manner that is essential in addressing their scientific, technological, social, economic and cultural needs of its clientele.

About Ilera Holistic Healthcare

Ilera Holistic Healthcare is a fully integrated medical marijuana company that fuses science and innovation to discover life-changing therapies. In Louisiana, we partner our world-class cultivation and extraction methods with Southern University's to expertly create and deliver consistent, high quality medicines. From seed and soil to dispensary shelves, Ilera is committed to providing a superior health and wellness experience.

Information from Ilera Holistic Healthcare was used in the development of this story.



De'Shoin

YORK

De'Shoin A. York, Ph.D., has been appointed the Interim Vice Chancellor for Extension and Outreach at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Dr. York was appointed to the position during the Southern University System Board of Supervisors' meeting on September 25. The appointment will be effective on October 1.

In January, York was named the Associate Vice Chancellor of the Center. For the past 20 years, Dr. York has served as the Southern University Ag Center's Nutrition, Health, and Wellness Specialist. In this role, she has designed and implemented nutrition, health, and wellness programming for the Center's disadvantaged and low-income clientele. She also serves as Director for both the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) nutrition education programs.

Prior to coming to the Southern University Ag Center, York was a research assistant at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center where she worked on the well-known Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) Study.

She also served as the Director of Dietary Services for BHC Meadow Wood Hospital as well as Special Programs Coordinator and Food Procurement Coordinator for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

York has written several journal articles and publications in the area of food and nutrition.

She will serve as Chair for the Family and Consumer Sciences group of the Southern Region - Program Leadership Network (SR-PLN) for the 2021 programming year. The organization's mission is to foster and strengthen Extension education programming throughout the southern region by promoting multistate cooperation, anticipating emerging program issues and needs, and implementing action processes to address them promptly.

York is a member of the Louisiana Statewide Clinical and Translational Science Center (LaCATS) Advisory Board, which provides oversight to a statewide medical research consortium of 10 major academic and biomedical research centers within the state. The goal of the board is to facilitate clinical research to improve the health and healthcare of all Louisiana citizens, particularly those living with chronic diseases.

Dr. York earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Foods and Nutrition; a Master's of Public Administration and a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy with a concentration in Health Policy, all from Southern University.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

APPRENTICE

Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department



PROGRAM

Four Urban Forestry students Aaliyah Royston, Jordan Davis, Nick Pryor, and Detrick White, are selected as the first group of students for the Leadership Apprentice Award. This is the highest honor in the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department supported by the 2020 Career Readiness project. Each awardee will receive a \$1,500 stipend per semester while participating in the project's leadership and career readiness training activities. Each apprentice will make a presentation and submit a report at the end of their apprenticeship.

The project is led by the department's chair, Dr. Zhu Ning and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences Vice Chancellor and Associate Dean, Dr. Renita Marshall. Beatra Wilson, a graduate of the department and Assistant Director for Urban and Community Forestry at the United States Forest Service, secured funding for the project. Dr. Ray Lawson, Director of Park Operation at Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission (BREC) and Assistant Director Dr. Brain Watkins, who are also alumni of the department, are the project's team members. The project serves as a vehicle to formalize the partnership and collaboration between the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department and BREC.

Leadership Apprentice Jordan Davis is a graduating senior who will be mentored by Mrs. Wilson to gain national experience that will benefit him in post-graduation employment.

Aaliyah Royston is a senior and the president of the SU student chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). She has already started to work under the direction of Dr. Watkins to set up a green project for the Baton Rouge community.

Nick Pryor is a junior who will shadow Dr. Lawson throughout the project.

Detrick White is a first-year master's degree student. He has made plans to interview Dr. Marshall for leadership tips and guidance. He has aspirations of leadership and merging his educational and professional goals in a way that helps the students, community, and the College.

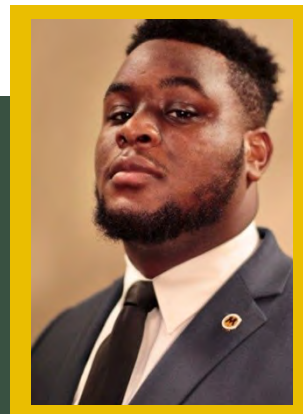
For more information about the project and the awardees, please contact Dr. Ning at zhu_ning@subr.edu.



Aaliyah Royston



Detrick White



Jordan Davis



Nick Pryor

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

\$139,500



Southern University's Department of Agricultural Sciences has received a grant to establish a virtual reality laboratory named the JAG's DEN.

The laboratory will assist students in courses within the department and be used as a recruitment tool for the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS).

"The JAG's DEN will allow the department to enhance the global competitiveness of our graduates by creating more diverse learning opportunities while they are in the program," said Dr. Harold Mellieon, Jr., chair of the Department of Agricultural Sciences. "The JAG's DEN will be used as a reinforcement space to enhance the content in course lectures and labs by supplementing with virtual reality."

The lab was funded by the Louisiana Board of Regents' Journeys in Agricultural Science Developing Educational Networks grant for \$139,500.

Dr. Mellieon is the Principle Investigators for the grant with Co-Principle Investigators Drs. Renita Marshall, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Services/ Associate Dean of the Southern University CAFCS, Nastassia Jones, Associate Professor and Francesca Mellieon-William with the SU Science and Math Education Department (SMED).

For additional information about the JAG's DEN virtual reality laboratory, contact Dr. Harold Mellieon, Jr. at harold_mellieon@subr.edu.



#GROW JAGS!

SU Dept. of Ag receives National Science Foundation grant to aid middle & high schoolers

**Project to bring virtual reality experiences
to students in rural and urban schools*

Southern University's Department of Agricultural Sciences, along with the Department of Science and Mathematics Education (SMED), College of Sciences and Engineering, and the School of Education, will bring virtual reality experiences to middle and high school students and teachers through the 'Building Environmental and Educational Technology Competence and Leadership Among Educators: An Exploration in Virtual Reality (VR) Professional Development (BEE-Tech) project.

The project, which is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, will leverage the Department of Agricultural Sciences' virtual reality projects to provide the teachers and students of rural and urban middle and high schools with local virtual reality experiences. Often these schools are lacking resources for field trips and the VR project will allow students to be immersed in simulated field experiences.

"The Louisiana wetlands is an example of one of our nation's most vulnerable ecosystems that exist near communities where there are little to no STEM training opportunities for teachers and students in K-12 schools," said Dr. Harold Mellieon, Jr., chair of the Department of Agricultural Sciences. "Focusing on these threatened natural environments and their connection to flooding will put STEM concepts in a real-world context that is relatable to students living in these areas while integrating innovative virtual reality technology into their learning."

Dr. Nastassia Jones, an Associate Professor in the Department of Science and Mathematics Education (SMED), is the lead Principle Investigator of this interdisciplinary, three-year grant. Drs. Christopher Chappell, Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources; Christopher Guillory (SMED); Emily Jackson-Osagie Department of Curriculum and Instruction; and Harold Mellieon, Jr., Department of Agricultural Sciences, all from Southern University, are Co-Principle Investigators on the grant.


**NATIONAL
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION**





SU Ag Center holds Louisiana's **FIRST** Virtual

PRODUCE SAFETY TRAINING



Anybody who grows fruits and vegetables which are consumed raw and sold to the public must participate in a food/produce safety training. The Southern University Ag Center's Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) has been tasked with developing the standardized national produce safety training program to prepare fresh produce growers to meet the regulatory requirements in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

Now with the pandemic, the PSA has been asked to consider temporary remote training options in the context of the World Health Organization (WHO), federal, and other guidance about geographic restriction and social distancing strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19. In response to these requests, the PSA has decided to temporarily amend its current policy for PSA Grower Training delivery. PSA prioritizes making sure growers who need to meet basic food/produce safety needs have access to a course in a way that is consistent with efforts to reduce the public health impact of COVID-19. It is imperative that courses be available, provided for growers in a high-quality manner, and that they do not increase public health risks (<https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/covid-19-outbreak-temporary-policy/>)

The Southern University Ag Center held the state's first Remote PSA Grower Training July 28-July 31st, 2020 with 12 participants, all farmers, from throughout Louisiana.

"We limited the numbers because we wanted to make sure the participants followed all the steps and procedures correctly," said Fatemeh Malekian, Ph.D., Project Director of the PSA. "We had to turn down people from other states and countries who were interested in participating due to having to ship manuals and accessory documents to trainees that they needed to have before the start of the training," she added.

The training was offered at no cost to the participants. After the training, the participant received a certificate of completion from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO).

The training was conducted by Dr. Malekian, Chelsea Triche, Produce Safety Coordinator and Sanjay Palle, Network Administrator. This effort was in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), the LSU Ag Center, and the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA) in Alexandria.



Dr. Edwin Lewis is a Branch Chief in the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Business Center of USDA. He serves on the leadership team for Grants and Agreement Division, which services four different USDA Agencies. Prior to joining FPAC, Dr. Lewis spent 10 years of his career as a National Program Leader with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). In this capacity, he provided leadership for NIFA's 1890 Land-Grant University programs that support research, teaching, extension and infrastructure development. He also led various educational grant programs and international initiatives, which supported public and land-grant universities. Dr. Lewis also worked 11 years for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, where he focused on international trade policy and international development initiatives. Prior to joining the USDA, Dr. Lewis worked as an Extension Agent and County Office Director for Virginia Cooperative Extension. Dr. Lewis has a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from Southern University and A&M College. He also earned a M.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Extension Education, both from Virginia Tech University. Dr. Lewis lives in the Washington, D.C. area with his wife Dr. Nikkyia Lewis and their four children.



DR. EDWIN LEWIS

Branch Chief in the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Business Center

WHY SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY?

Why did you choose Southern University Agricultural & Mechanical College? My father graduated from Southern in the Agricultural Economics. I'm a second generation Agriculture Economist at USDA. I'm proud to not only have my roots at Southern University, but to also have someone who modeled what a career in agriculture could potentially be for me. It has been a fulfilling career, and I appreciate 1890's in general. At Southern University, I was not just a number. I had an opportunity of a lifetime to connect with faculty, and really get encouragement. By the time I graduated, my life was transformed.

EXPERIENCE IN AG ECONOMICS PROGRAM?

It actually was a strong program at the time in the College of Agriculture. There were at least three, or maybe four faculty members in the Agriculture Economics Department. I remember Dr. Meynsse being a very good professor.

WHAT ARE YOUR DAY TO DAY TASKS AS BRAND CHIEF?

I have been in this role for a year now, managing the Grants and Agreements Office. The Farm Production & Conservation Area is actually a mission area that includes three main program agencies. These agencies include the Natural Resource & Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Risk Management Agency (RMA). I manage a staff of Grant Management Specialist who are responsible for processing all of the grants and agreements from what we call “cradle to grave,” the beginning to end. Our office also work with programming specialist, recipients, including universities like Southern to make sure we get those funds out the door. Prior to coming to FPCA, I spent 10 years with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). In that role I managed the grant funds both competitive and formula funds that also went to universities like Southern. I also had a chance to spend a lot of time with faculty, visiting universities and working with them to ensure their programs were aligned with what Congress intended. Especially in support of Extension, Research, Education, and Facilities Programs specifically for 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR “FOOD EQUITY”?

One of the things I appreciate about our 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, is that they are front and center in addressing those issues of food desserts. They are working in those communities where access to healthy, and safe foods can potentially be a challenge for some families. Through extension they are doing great work in building community gardens, and setting up farmers markets.

HOW IMPORTANT IS INCLUSION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE?

There are a lot of decisions being made in terms of markets that farmers have access to. Many of our farmers are small limited resource farmers, often times focusing on local and regional markets only. There are endless opportunities around the world, and being at the table ensures that policy will benefit all farmers. During my time at the Foreign Agriculture Service, I was delighted at the number of high level officials who had received their bachelor degrees from an 1890 Land-Grant Institution. We should feel a sense of pride. Southern University still have alumni who are at the table making decisions to ensure our farms have access to local and international markets.

WHERE DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE?

The STEM area will be very important with addressing some of the current and future challenges of agriculture. Access to food, food safety, natural resource challenges, and climate change are all continual challenges that STEM can and will solve.

WITH SUCH A SOLID LEGACY AT SU, ARE YOU RECRUITING YOUR CHILDREN?

I'm biased of course. I have four kids, and a daughter who is a senior in high school. This past summer she did participate in the Virtual Bayou Program at Southern University. She has an interest in Animal Science, and Psychology. The Bayou Program gave her a chance to explore agriculture and specifically Animal Science, and engage with the faculty. There are a vast number of opportunities available in Agricultural Science. When I graduated from Southern, not only was I prepared to go off to graduate school at Virginia Tech, but I had an opportunity to work at the state and local level. Agriculture also allowed me an opportunity to see and experience the world, and work with great scientists.

TROUBLE?

for coastal communities

Are some coastal communities in Louisiana vulnerable to climate change due to projected sea-level rise by the year 2040?

The article, "Modeling the risks of climate change and global warming to humans settled in low elevation coastal zones in Louisiana, U.S.A.," written by Dr. Yaw Twumasi, Associate Professor of GIS and Remote Sensing with faculty member, Dr. Kamran Abdollahi and students, John Namwamba, Caroline Akinrinwoye, Kellyn LaCour-Conant and Joshua Tate from the Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources has been published in Atmospheric and Climate Science Journal.

The primary objectives of the research, which was conducted in the Spring of 2020, was to identify high-risk areas that are prone to flooding from sea-level rise due to high impacts of global climate change, as well as model and understand the ramifications of predicted sea-level rise. To accomplish these objectives, Dr. Twumasi and his research team conducted geographic information system (GIS) and statistical analysis of data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) absolute sea-level data covering 1880 - 2015, elevation data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and population data from the United States Census Bureau covering southern Louisiana to develop models for population trends and cumulative sea-level rise. The results of the models suggest that if the sea-level continued to rise at the present rate, populations of approximately 1.8 million people in Louisiana's coastal lands would be at risk due to the sea having risen to about 740 inches by 2040.

For further reading go to:

Atmospheric and Climate Science Journal, (2020) volume 10 No.3, pages 298-318.

Website: <https://www.scirp.org/journal/acs/>

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HAPPY FALL

Y'all



 P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

 (225) 771-2242

 suagcenter.com

   @suagcenter

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