



TUSKEGEE
UNIVERSITY

THE CISC NEWSLETTER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CARVER INTEGRATIVE SUSTAINABILITY CENTER



THE GARDENS OF TUSKEGEE FESTIVAL

An effort to increase healthy produce

The Gardens of Tuskegee hosted the FEASTival at the Student Demonstration Garden behind the Macon County Farmers Market on Saturday, November 17th where **over 100 children, students, and community members harvested more than 100 pounds of fresh organic collard greens.** We also served hot meals of those same collard greens from the garden, sweet potatoes donated from The Hooks farm, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, cornbread and much more!

Tuskegee University's Cooperative Extension Program and Carver Integrative Sustainability Center would like the community to join us in our local food efforts. Interns Terence Jackson, Marquess James, Jasmine Ratliff, and Danielle Smith, under the direction of Supervisors Millicent Braxton and Dr. Raymon Shange would like to invite the community to join our local food security efforts by volunteering to come out to The Gardens of Tuskegee from 1-4 pm Monday & Wednesday of each week.





INNOVATION IN EXTENSION

Impact Collaborative Summit Pitch Competition

On October 16-18, 2018, the Tuskegee Public Dialogue Team (TPDT) participated in the first national Impact Collaborative Summit in Indianapolis, IN. The purpose of the training was to unite design thinkers from the Cooperative Extension System and partners from organizations confronting the most pressing challenges of our time to shape positive futures for communities. The TPDT focused on building capacity within the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program to help communities engage in civil dialogues around racial issues and their intersections with the food system. **TPDT placed “Top Overall Pitch” and received a “Most Fundable” Award out of twenty-five teams in the Impact Collaborative Summit Pitch Competition.**



1890s Leadership Academy

On November 13-15, 2018 Millicent Braxton, Terence Jackson, Marquess James, Lindsey Lunsford, Jasmine Ratliff and Levershaun Williams attended the inaugural meeting 1890s Leadership Academy in Atlanta, GA. The purpose of the academy is to encourage cross-collaboration among states on important issues related to program areas, as well as build essential leadership skills for this cohort. The 1890s Leadership Academy was the first session of a six month academy that fosters the incubation, development, and implementation of innovative ideas in the 1890 communities towards creating measurable impact. For more information visit www.eXtension.org

1890s Center for Innovative Small Farmers Ranchers and Landowners

Tuskegee University CISC just completed a second round of funded opportunities through the 1890s Foundation. The original funding came through jointly funded projects from USDA (US Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Rural Development) that aimed at forming and maintaining clusters of farmers so that they make take advantage of opportunities as a cohesive unit to share in production costs, strategize post-harvest options, and market their produce/product together. The first project focused on infrastructure development focused on irrigation (following the Black Belt Photo-irrigation Project) to develop the capacity for consistency in production), equipment sharing amongst cattlemen, and educational activities amongst forest landowners. The second project (funded through Rural Development) focused primarily on educational workshops with regards to risk management, financial literacy, and food safety certification. With a new funding cycle on the horizon, TU CISC looks to continue assisting clusters of farmers, ranchers, and landowners in the similar ways for the foreseeable future.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORNER

Food Drive Highlights

Over 800,000 people are struggling with hunger in Alabama according to data from Feeding America. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension held a food drive throughout all of its servicing counties to help combat hunger in Alabama. County highlights of this project include food collected at Barbour County High School being donated to the Barbour County Pregnancy Crisis Center. The Dallas County extension office collected and donated 50 pounds of non-perishable food to the Selma Area Food Bank. **The Macon County extension office collected and donated over 100 non-perishable items to the Macon County Food Pantry.**



Scale Back Alabama

Scale Back Alabama is a free statewide weight-loss campaign designed to encourage Alabamians to get healthy and to have fun while doing it. Since the first challenge in 2007, Alabamians have lost more than one million pounds! Scale Back Alabama is designed to address the state's challenge with obesity designed as a 9-week challenge to lose 10 pounds with weekly wellness tips to encourage healthy lifestyle changes.

For more information and to join the challenge visit scalebackalabama.com



Lock Your Meds® Campaign

66% of teens get their prescription drugs from friends and family members according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. They think these drugs are “safe” but in the wrong hands, they can be fatal.

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension agents, staff and interns collectively interacted with over 850 participants that took the pledge to Lock Your Meds®.

The Lock Your Meds® campaign asks everyone to:

- Secure your medication
- Regularly take inventory of your medication to ensure nothing is missing
- Safely dispose of unused or expired medication
- Spread the word to family and friends

Our children have the right to grow up drug free and we have the responsibility to make that happen. For more information visit LockYourMeds.org

Campaign Sponsored by: National Family Partnership nfp.org

one hundred and twenty - seventh



February 18th - 23rd, 2019

For more information:

www.tuskegee.edu/farmersconference

SAVE THE DATE

127TH FARMERS CONFERENCE

**It's time to register for the
127th Annual Farmers Conference!**

The Farmers Conference at Tuskegee University is often cited as the oldest event of its type in the nation. The first Farmers Conference, originally called the "Peoples Conference" was hosted on this historic campus on February 23, 1892.

This conference exists today as an educational forum that features tours, panel discussions, interactive demonstrations and concurrent workshops. The theme for this year's conference is "Solving Common Problems in Uncommon Ways: Sustainable Innovation for the People". The sessions address emerging issues surrounding small farmers, farm families and rural communities. For more information and to register for the 127th Annual Farmers Conference, please visit tuskegee.edu/farmersconference



Please reach out to us if you have any questions or would like additional information:

cisc@tuskegee.edu or 334-439-0202

Published by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program. Tuskegee University offers educational programs and materials without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. It is also an Equal Opportunity Employer.

“

"Excellence is to do common things in an uncommon way."

- Booker T. Washington

PAWC HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018 Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) was held on December 2nd-4th. The PAWC is a forum committed to a world that values and promotes equal opportunity equitable access to information and technology for sustainable development of communities and natural resources. The conference began in 1942 mainly with Tuskegee University and local and state support and participation. It is now national in scope including representatives from the national land grant community, and from the state, federal, and private sectors. **Over 450 participants gathered to reflect on the this year's theme: "Beyond the Veil: Changing the World Through Agricultural Transformations and Sustainable Partnerships, Practices and Policies".**

The conference also included a youth portion titled TAPs, Tomorrow's Agricultural Professional Symposium, where nearly 50 high school students from the black belt area convened to increase the awareness of educational and career opportunities for youth in the fields of food, agriculture, natural resources and related sciences (FANRRS). The participants engaged in hands-on experiences, topics, and possibilities that agriculture and related fields have to offer such as learning more about summer internship and career opportunities in agriculture, technology use in agriculture through a drone demonstration, a healthy foods culinary demonstration, field trips to natural resource sites, and much more.

CISC INTERNSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

Future Farmers and Agricultural Specialists CISC
Summer Experience
(for Undergraduates)

Future Farmers and Agricultural Specialists
Extension Development Internship
(for Graduates)

See: <https://www.tuskegee.edu/about-us/centers-of-excellence/cisc>