

# Academy for the Academic Enhancement of High School Students in the Food and Agricultural Sciences

## Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

A. O. Williams Hall, P. O. 10010, SU, Baton Rouge, LA 70813

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\$199,684



### Institutions/organizations involved:

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

### NIFAUSDA PRIORITY AREA:

Youth, Family and Communities

### USDA COLLABORATORS:

- Farm Service Agency – FSA
- National Agricultural Statistics Service – NASS
- Natural Resources Conservation Service - NRCS

### BENEFICIARIES

High school students from disadvantaged and underrepresented families



### OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the proposal are to:

1. Enhance knowledge and application of standardized test taking skills through instruction in CORE subjects and the humanities.
2. Enhance awareness of the food and agricultural sciences through short courses and experiential learning activities.
3. Increase the leadership and decision-making skills by promoting volunteerism.
4. Provide career development experiences and opportunities for students by working in professional settings.

### EXPECTED IMPACT

Increased numbers of students entering food and agricultural sciences and provide a better prepared workforce for USDA and other employers. Advance cultural diversity of the food and agricultural scientific and professional work force by increasing underrepresented groups.

\*In the first class, 14 out of 17 participants increased their ACT scores enough to gain admissions to universities.

### ACTIVITIES



#### Planned activities include:

- Orientation Session
- ACT Pretest and Posttest
- Agricultural awareness pre / posttest
- Multimedia classroom instruction and teaching laboratories:
  - Mathematics
  - Science Reasoning
  - Humanities
  - Computer literacy
  - English
  - Communication skills
- Experiential short courses
  - Plant & Soil Sciences
  - Food science
  - Urban forestry
  - Agricultural Economics
  - Nutrition
  - Clothing and textiles
  - Leadership development
- Computer literacy
- Summer employment
- Career counseling

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### EVALUATION

Evaluation of accomplishments and program goals will be formative and summative. The overall success of the program will be measured by the number of Academy participants qualifying for the Louisiana tuition scholarship Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) who enroll at Southern University pursuing a degree within the food and agricultural sciences. The overall plan of evaluation will include the following:

1. Change in perception about the food and agricultural sciences.
2. Improvement in project participant's performance on posttest in each prescribed subject area when compared to pretest.
3. Increased ACT / SAT scores.
4. Eligibility of project participants qualifying for the TOPS award.
5. USDA mentors performance review of student interns.

A team comprised of external and internal reviewers will evaluate the extent that the project objectives were met and provide an overall assessment of the project.

