

House District 2



THE HONORABLE ROY A. BURRELL

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Louisiana Strawberries



On Thursday, March 12, 2009, while Rep. Burrell was attending a conference on Growing the Small and Minority Farmer Industry in Louisiana at the Charles Dewitt Center in Alexandria, La, he missed his annual deliver of Louisiana Strawberries . Thank you to Judge Bob Morrison, Tangiapahoa Parish President Gordon Burgess, George Schultz, and others. The strawberries were shared with residents of House District 2. For strawberry recipes, please visit the Louisiana Strawberry Marketing Board website at <http://louisianastrawberries.com>. Recipes include Fresh Strawberry Pie, Classic Strawberry Shortcake, Classic Strawberry Shortcake with Fresh Strawberry Sauce, Strawberry Cake, Tropical Strawberry Smoothie, and more.

(See the next page for coverage of the Small and Minority Farmers' Conference.)



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Small and Minority Farmers

Growing the Small and Minority Farmer Industry in Louisiana

Charles Dewitt Center

Alexandria, La

March 12, 2009



Pictured left: Rep. Burrell addressing the Small and Minority Farmers' Conference. Rep. Burrell sponsored two study resolutions (HCR 154 and HCR 155 of 2007) to address the decline of small and minority farmers in Louisiana.

Pictured to the right are Rep. Burrell; Dr. Adell Brown, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center; and Dr. Paul Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service of the LSU AgCenter in a light moment between conference sessions.



Pictured left: Rep. Burrell has a serious discussion of his concern for the decline of small and minority farmers with Dr. Gail L. Cramer, Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at LSU.



PHOTO CREDIT: PHOTOS BY JOHNNY W. MORGAN, ASSOCIATE COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST LSU AgCENTER COMMUNICATIONS

Small and Minority Farmers



Rep. Roy Burrell has been committed to keeping his promise to small and minority farmers, to help find the reasons for the significant past decline of these small businesses throughout the State of Louisiana and the nation. "I made a commitment to my late father Woodrow Burrell, a farmer in northeast Louisiana, that I would use my education and knowledge to assist all farmers, especially the Black farmer, to sustain and grow in Louisiana", Burrell said. The small farmer is still the bread and butter of this country, and their extinction is truly the beginning of the end of civilization as we know it. Their survival is very important to this nation's defense.

Louisiana's Black farmers once numbered in the tens of thousand. Since the early 1900's, this number has decreased tremendously to less than 2000 farmers in Louisiana according to the US Census. In 1910, African Americans owned over 15 million acres of farmland, but today this same group owns less than 1 million acres. In 1920, Black farms numbered over 1 million and in 2008 less than 5,000. "Many Black families I know are tied back to the Black farm and landowner; even if small, it is an important link to their heritage and their ownership to a piece of this earth", according to Burrell. Although small white farmer's acreage has also decreased over the same period, Black farm acreage has decreased at a rate of 2-1/2 times that of the white farmer. They both are growing extinct and need each others' political and financial strength to survive.

Much of this loss can be attributed to lack of interest by Blacks in farming as a primary source of income and wealth due to better education and job opportunities. Many small white and minority farmers lost hope in keeping and maintaining their farms because of unsuccessful challenges against national and international food commodity competition, mega farming, ambiguous inheritance and tax laws, and institutional discrimination from business and govern-

ment. No other group was as hard hit and suffered more than the Black farmer.

During the Reconstruction period and the Jim Crow era that follow in the South, Black farmers had little or no say in their family's health and welfare. After the Civil War, much of the property and wealth given or sold to former slaves' families and their heirs by the U.S. government was stripped from them through bogus laws, unfair judicial rulings, personal harassment, intimidation and lynching, and a general lack of education to read and understand contract law. For the Black farmer, historical discrimination by the institutions of business, government and the judicial system has by far been the most dramatic and devastating obstacles to wealth creation and income growth for African Americans.

"Think if Black families still owned only a portion of the lands once owned by their ancestors in the Ark-La-Tex, there would be a larger and wealthier Black middle class group in this region due to the Haynesville Shale", said Burrell. According to a recent study of ethnic and cultural economic disparity, it was noted that the lack of wealth and quality of life experienced by African Americans is a direct result of government intervention in the property loss by these individuals, resulting in the lack of transfer of wealth to future generations. This resulted in substantial land and property loss by African Americans located in the South, including Louisiana, until today. These illegal acts of economic genocide against Black farmers have been documented and proven through major litigation such as in the Pigford vs. United States of Agriculture (USDA) lawsuit, also known as the Black Farmers Lawsuit.

The Black Farmers Lawsuit was brought against the United States government for racial discrimination against the Black farmer and landowner. It was finally settled under the Clinton Administration, where the federal courts found that the USDA targeted and implemented illegal authority that systematically and discriminately withheld technical and financial assistance among other critical resources from the Black farmer. This caused irreversible and irrepressible damage to this federally protected group. The lawsuit was settled for \$6.4 billion, the largest class ac-

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tion settlement in U.S. history. Despite this temporary victory, the U.S. government through its court decisions and remedies only allowed about 1/3 of the 65,000 complainants to receive compensation for their losses—another travesty of justice. The battle still rages even today. The new President Obama's administration has given some commitment to small and Black farmers, to review their cases to see if justice can be better served for this population.

Rep. Burrell admits the Black Farmers Lawsuit is what opened his eyes to the plight of the small and minority farmer. Also, his family has recently been victims having lost two farms to the alleged dishonesty and deceit perpetrated by our federal, state and local governments and justice system. "That is what prompted my efforts to get passed legislation (HCR 154 and HCR 155) in the 2007 regular legislative session to address this important issue, according to Burrell. The concurrent resolutions by the House and Senate authorizes the State of Louisiana Agriculture Department, headed by newly elected Ag Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain, to conduct a study of the decline of small and minority farmer in Louisiana. The legislation earmarked \$200,000 for this purpose, to be conducted by LSU and Southern University's Ag and Law Department, and reported back to both state houses and the USDA.

Burrell said that after nearly two years later, compliance to the concurrent resolutions seems to have been circumvented by the Ag Commissioner, saying that due to the Governor's midyear 2008 budget cut, he had to trim spending. The Ag Commissioner used an existing farmer's study by a Virginia based group and convened a farmer's conference in Alexandria, Louisiana on March 12, 2009. Burrell said he was not satisfied with the Commissioner's actions and still holds him responsible for the \$200,000 budgeted for the study on the declining farmers.



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Channing Bête Company® Community Outreach Grant

Application Deadline: April 30, 2009, 5 PM Eastern

Description: The Channing Bête Company® Community Outreach Grant program was established to recognize outstanding innovation and creativity in using Channing Bête Company publications. The grants department invites community educators in the fields of public health, human services, or community safety/law enforcement to apply for a grant in order to implement these publications in either existing or new outreach programs, although preference will be given to new and innovative programs. Applicants are asked to submit a proposal outlining a creative project that includes the use of Channing Bête Company publications in educational outreach programs. Proposals should incorporate a detailed project description, including goals/objectives, an evaluation plan, and an itemized list of materials that would be used.

Funding Amount: Up to four individual grants of up to \$750 for Channing Bête Company publications (only)

Who May Apply: Nonprofit organizations (those with a 501[c][3] designation) and government and related agencies for which Channing Bête Company publications will be actively integrated into educational outreach efforts should apply.

For more information, go to:

www.channing-bete.com/cogrant2009/

SERVICE LEARNING

Corporation for National and Community Service -- Learn and Serve America Community-Based Programs FY 2009

Application Deadline: April 14, 2009

Description: The Corporation for National and Community Service announces the anticipated availability of approximately \$4,200,000 for qualified organizations to provide subgrants, training, and other assistance to local partnerships to implement community-based service-learning projects. These funds will be awarded to an estimated five to eight eligible applicants, with

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awards ranging from approximately \$350,000 to \$450,000 annually for a project period of up to three years. The corporation's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Learn and Serve America Community-Based grants are designed to involve school-age youth in community-based service-learning programs that provide direct and demonstrable educational, public-safety, human, or environmental service, and to provide training and technical assistance to youth-serving organizations. Key agency priorities for the 2009 initiative include:

- expanding opportunities for out-of-school service-learning activities that increase civic engagement, leadership capacity, and community problem-solving skills, and promote retention in school and readiness for careers and postsecondary education
- engaging young people, particularly youth in disadvantaged circumstances, in the planning and implementation of service-learning activities that directly address community needs in order to build healthier communities
- developing community partnerships at the local level that include well-defined roles for public or private nonprofit organization partners and adult volunteers engaged in service-learning programs.

Funding Amount: seven grants totaling \$4,200,000

Who May Apply:

- State governments
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits with IRS 501(c)(3) status, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits without IRS 501(c)(3) status, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

For more information, go to:

http://www.cns.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=71

HIV/AIDS

The John M. Lloyd Foundation

Application Deadline: Concept letters are accepted between November 1 and December 15.

Description: The John M. Lloyd Foundation amplifies its funding through flexibility in supporting novel, entrepreneurial projects that have a high likelihood of affecting social change with regard to HIV/AIDS.

Funding Amount: The grant limit of the foundation is \$20,000.

Who May Apply: The foundation generally makes contributions to nonprofit organizations that are described in section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.johnmlloyd.org>

EDUCATION

Mazda Foundation

Application Deadline: The foundation accepts applications from May 1 through July 1 each fiscal year.

Description: Acting on a strong sense of responsibility to give something back to the American communities in which it operates, Mazda established a philanthropic foundation, the Mazda Foundation (USA), Inc. As the corporate foundation of Mazda North American Operations, it has awarded nearly \$3.8 million to worthwhile causes across the United States since its inception and initial awards in 1992. A focus on youth and educational opportunities for minorities are common threads that run through many of the programs funded by the foundation. Additionally, Mazda has nurtured long-term partnerships that advance medical research to find a cure for juvenile diabetes, help to improve the condition of the nation's parks, and promote cross-cultural understanding between the United States and Japan. Through its financial gifts to youth-oriented charitable programs, Mazda not only envisions a better future but is taking meaningful steps to realize that goal.

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Who May Apply:

The Mazda Foundation awards grants to programs promoting:

- education and literacy
- environmental conservation
- cross-cultural understanding
- social welfare
- scientific research.

The foundation does not support:

- individuals
- political organizations
- religious organizations
- fund-raising dinners or events
- capital-building, endowment, or debt-reduction drives
- organizations without 501(c)(3) designations
- requests in foreign countries.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.mazdafoundation.org/grantguidelines.html>

BREAST CANCER

Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Komen Affiliate Network -- Grants for Breast Cancer Education, Screening, and Treatment

Application Deadline: Varies by affiliate

Description: Grants are made to local hospitals and community organizations that provide breast health education and awareness programs to medically underserved women.

Funding Amount: Amount not specified

Who May Apply: Varies by affiliate

For more information, go to:

<http://ww5.komen.org/researchgrants/communitybasedgrants.html>

CRIME VICTIMS

U.S. Department of Justice -- Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grant Program

Application Deadline: None (open solicitation contingent upon fund availability)

Description: The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will provide up to \$10,000 in funding to grassroots community- and faith-based victim-service organizations and coalitions to improve outreach and services to crime victims through support of program development, networking, coalition building, and service delivery. Funds may be used to develop program literature, train advocates, produce a newsletter, support victim outreach efforts, and recruit volunteers.

Who May Apply: Established organizations and coalitions that do not receive federal Victims of Crime Act victim assistance grant funding and operate with \$75,000 or less in annual funding may apply. Eligible organizations and coalitions must be operating for at least one year.

Funding Amount: Up to \$10,000

For more information, go to:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/expandingoutreach/welcome.html>

JUSTICE, HEALTH, AND WORKERS' RIGHTS

Public Welfare Foundation

Application Deadline: Requests for new funding may be submitted at any time during the year. The review committee considers letters of inquiry on a regular basis.

Description: The Public Welfare Foundation supports efforts to ensure fundamental rights and opportunities for people in need. The foundation looks for carefully defined points where its funds can make a difference in bringing about systemic changes that can improve the lives of countless people. Funding priorities for 2009 include:

- criminal and juvenile justice
- health reform
- workers' rights.

Who May Apply: Primarily, IRS 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible, but the foundation's Web site outlines alternatives for organizations without 501(c)(3) status whose fund-seeking activities are charitable.

Funding Amount: Most grants fall between \$25,000 and

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\$50,000, though some may be lower or higher.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.publicwelfare.org>

NUTRITION

Allen Foundation

Application Deadline: The deadline for submission of proposals is midnight (EST) on December 31. A list of grant winners will be posted on the foundation's Web site in June. Proposals received after December 31 will be considered for review the following year.

Description: Grants are limited under the terms of the foundation's charter to projects that primarily benefit programs centering around nutrition in the areas of health, education, training, and research.

Who May Apply: Nonprofit organizations

For more information, go to:

<http://www.allenfoundation.org/commoninfo/aboutus.asp>

NEEDLE EXCHANGE

The Comer Foundation -- Needle Exchange Program

Application Deadlines: March 1, July 1, and November 1 annually

Description: The Comer Foundation provides support to not-for-profit organizations focused on needle exchange and other harm-reduction strategies within the drug-using community, and seeks to facilitate the process between organizations and communities committed to creating and maintaining health.

Who May Apply: The Comer Foundation will make grants to organizations that are exempt from federal tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that are not classified as private foundations under section 509(a) of the code.

Funding Amount: Average single-year grants range from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.comer-foundation.com/NEPfull.html>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Heineman Foundation

Application Deadline: September 1 annually

Description: The purpose of the Heineman Foundation is to provide seed money to start-up projects and new projects within existing organizations for a maximum of three to five years. The foundation's general areas of interest are the following:

- environmental research that will help prevent, reduce, or eliminate large-scale water degradation
- music as education and a preserver of culture
- research into prevention, education, and treatment for childhood illnesses
- programs that enable youth to think, create, and communicate effectively
- programs that enable economically challenged women to enter and remain in the workplace, such as:
 - o on-site day-care centers
 - o job-training programs
 - o language and leadership skills programs.

Funding Amount: The average range of the foundation's donations is \$20,000 to \$50,000 per annum.

Who May Apply: An organization must have 501(c)(3) status and upload copies of corresponding IRS documents to the online application form in order for the application to be considered.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.heinemanfoundation.org/guidelines>



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection will be posting a vacancy announcement on the USAJOBS website, www.usajobs.gov and the CBP website, www.cbp.gov, from April 6-26, 2009, for a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officer position. Although the announcement will be open for 20 days, CBP may cut off the announcement based on the volume of applications received within the first 48 hours. Individuals that are interested in employment with CBP are encouraged to apply online beginning April 6, 2009. Thank you.

Learn & Serve Grant Opportunity

The Louisiana Serve Commission is pleased to announce the release of the 2009-10 Learn and Serve America grant application representing \$200,000 in service-learning grants this year. Learn and Serve America provides funds for service-learning programs, experiential learning connected to community service projects, to be implemented in K-12 public schools.

Eligible applicants for this grant are K-12 public school teachers, schools, or school districts. New eligible applicants for 2009-10 are public or private non-profit organizations that have been in existence for over one year, have experience in working with at-risk youth, and can provide projects for the student participants.

Service-learning is a teaching methodology that links academics with community service. Classroom instruction is reinforced through experiential education projects conducted by students that fulfill community needs. The real-life application of learning answers every student's question: "Why do I have to learn this?" Students benefit from service-learning programs by increasing their academic knowledge, develop teamwork and leadership skills, grow personally and socially, and increase their awareness of societal issues. Teachers meet the required state standards, benchmarks, and grade level expectations (GLEs) utilizing service-learning. Communities benefit from the service projects that are conducted by students.

The Learn and Serve grant application is available at www.crt.state.la.us/laserve/las. The deadline for submission is April 15, 2009.



Rep. Roy A. Burrell would like to hear from the constituents of House District 2. Visit the Contact Us page at www.royburrell.com and share your ideas for how to make District 2 and the State of Louisiana better.

Working for you!