

THE AGGIE REPORT

SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe

May 2022



Saluting Our History-Making *Class of 2022*

FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

Dear Aggies,

May 27, 2022. This date has been penciled on our calendars since July 2019. Our principal, Mr. Thompson, quotes Stephen Covey often: "Begin with the end in mind." I recall Mr. Thompson telling me in July 2019 that he wanted a male and female mannequin dressed in our graduation regalia to place in our school hallway. He had that vision of what our graduates would look like and wanted to share that vision with his colleagues and visitors. The rest of us didn't know what to think about his idea -- until the once hypothetical mannequins were actually in our view every day.

Until August 2020, we didn't have students; this campus was an empty shell that had been crumbling for years. Many days, it didn't feel like we were working at a high school because of the absence of boisterous teenagers. Mr. Thompson's mannequins helped us all remember what we were working so hard to create.

I am glad to say that after graduation day on May 27, Mr. Thompson may deliver those borrowed mannequins back to the Augusta Mall! They have served their purpose; we now have our first graduates of the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe.

Many adjectives come to my mind when describing our 21 seniors; however, one descriptor in particular stands out to me. *Courageous*. I often imagine what family discussions sounded like between our prospective students and their parents or guardians. At that time, we were not an official Governor's School. Because of the pandemic, the bill to create this new institution experienced delay within the General Assembly

Courageous decisions were made by both parents/guardians AND our students to move from their

comfortable homes and new school buildings to attend school here.

Our graduates are courageous for entering into the agriculture, forestry, and natural resources industries. The work is not easy. Sometimes, the pay is not as competitive as other career options. However, our students have passion and are driven by their common love for our planet.

If you attended our recent Awards Day, you might have heard me mention that one of my least favorite phrases among humans is, "We've always done it this way." Be assured: our graduates also share a dislike of that phrase. These young people are not afraid of change nor are they complacent. Moving here at age 15 or 16 is a testament to their ability to change and adapt.

Change is inevitable in any organization. Our students have witnessed change here in the last two years and have embraced those changes. They will easily adapt to college life or the workplace because they have been an integral part of one of our lifetime's most historic changes to a South Carolina governmental agency. I know all of our seniors will be leaders within our state and beyond. I pray that they will never use the phrase, "We've always done it this way."

These young people are on the right side of history and I expect them to accomplish great things in their lifetime. We will miss our seniors more than words or emotions could adequately convey. Our hope is that this beloved school will always be their home away from home. I speak for each our faculty and staff when I say that we are proud of you all and we love each of you like our own.

Congratulations to the inaugural graduating class of the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe: the Class of 2022!

Timothy Keown, President



Grayson Chassereau



Jason Connors



Hadleigh Corcoran

Class of 2022



Riley Cox



Anna Grace Cross



Hampton Davis



Christian Fehr



Leon Fulmer



Kyle Gilreath

Class of 2022



Trey Haddon



Aestas Hodge



Margaret Hollingsworth



Lauren Locklair



Grace Nimmons



Jake Parker

Class of 2022



Jaquez Perry



Jake Simpson



Jenna Tucker



Valeria Vazquez



Caleb Welsford



Allyson Wright

Class of 2022

VALEDICTORIAN
Aestas Hodge

SALUTATORIAN
Leon Fulmer





JAKE AND J.P. SIGN SCHOLARSHIPS TO S.C. STATE



Jake Simpson and Jaquez Perry (seated) are surrounded by leaders from both the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture and South Carolina State University as they sign the scholarship commitments. Joining in the celebration are (standing, l-r) JDLH President Tim Keown; Principal Greg Thompson; William Whittaker, acting dean college of agriculture, family and consumer sciences; Dr. Louis Whitesides, vice president and executive director for 1890 programs; and Dr. Derrick Wise, state program leader for education innovation and support.

With a shared vision to advance agriculture in the Palmetto state, two South Carolina agencies celebrated their partnership to grow the next generation of leaders. SC State University 1890 Research & Extension awarded full-tuition scholarships to two seniors at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John De La Howe (JDLH) during a college acceptance signing ceremony on Wednesday, April 27 in McCormick, S.C.

Jake Simpson and Jaquez Perry, recipients of the 2022 SC State 1890 Agriculture Innovation Scholarship, will join the freshman class of 2026 as declared agribusiness majors in the newly

established College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences at SC State University. The pair look to expand their knowledge of the management and business aspects of the ag industry and bring a fresh perspective to the state's growing billion-dollar industry.

The two seniors will each receive up to \$83,300 in scholarship monies that will cover their expenses throughout their four-year academic careers.

"It's a great day to be a Bulldog," Simpson, senior at JDLH boasted. "The faculty and staff at SC State have been very welcoming, and I am excited to continue my education at one of the best colleges in the

state."

"It's a blessing to be able to receive a free education. I am thankful for this opportunity and looking forward to attending SC State University," Perry stated. "I am proud to be a Bulldog."

"I am proud that these two have chosen SC State University to pursue their academic goals," said William Whittaker, acting dean for the college of agriculture, family and consumer sciences. "We are confident that Jake and Jaquez will enjoy their time at SC State and will ultimately graduate with the skills necessary to take on new

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challenges and opportunities within agriculture.”

To assess the needs of future farmers and add value to the agriculture industry, SC State 1890 and the Governor’s School of Agriculture at John de la Howe signed a memorandum of agreement September 2022. Since the signing, the two institutions have developed summer programs and other initiatives which have blossomed into a pipeline that will help train and prepare the next generation of leaders in the agricultural industry.

“The students and I at JDLH are going to miss these two young men, but I am confident that they will succeed at SC State University” said Greg Thompson, principal, SC Governor’s School for Agriculture at JDLH. “As a proud graduate of SC State University, I have no doubts that these two will be able to matriculate into an environment that encourages integrity, tenacity and excellence. Both Jake and Jacquez are exceptional students and agronomist. Through this partnership I am certain that these two will continue to receive the love, support and education that will lead towards a promising future in agriculture.”

“Knowledge and skill are needed to be successful in any career field, and we are excited to welcome these bright individuals to SC State University,” said Dr. Louis Whitesides, vice president and executive director for 1890 programs. “The partnership between JDLH and SC State University is essential to improving the knowledge and skills of our future leaders. Not only will these students receive an education, but both will also be



SC State

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able to further develop their skills while working on our new 200-acre research and demonstration farm.”

Both Simpson and Perry are excited to expand their skills and knowledge of the most profitable industry in the nation. Pushing the envelope in research and innovation in agriculture, the two will have student employment opportunities at the new research and demonstration farm located in Olar, S.C., where they will work alongside the farm manager to receive professional development and research training.

Offered to high school seniors and transfer students with an

interest in agriculture and ag-related careers, the 1890 Agriculture Innovation Scholarship is a four-year full-tuition scholarship that covers students’ tuition, books/fees and housing expenses, after other scholarships and aid have been applied.

Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), students also receive a complimentary laptop, professional development and direct connections to internship and job opportunities with the USDA.

This report is provided courtesy of SC State 1890 Research and Extension.



MUSHROOM EXPERT WOWS CROWD AT BARN



Tradd Cotter delivers his presentation on the benefits of mushroom and other fungi during last month's visit to JDLH.

World-renowned mycologist and author Tradd Cotter visited the JDLH campus in late April for a fascinating public program hosted at the campus Dairy Barn.

The event was co-sponsored by the JDLH Library and the McCormick County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Cotter owns and operates Mushroom Mountain, a mushroom farm and laboratory near Easley. He spoke about the value of mushrooms and other fungi to humankind and explored the variety of productive uses for fungi in everyday life.

Our visitor was impressed by his visit to the Governor's School for Agriculture. "It's been amazing to see the energy around the school, to learn about the history," he said following the well-attended presentation. "I really had no expectations of what this school was about or like, and when we toured today...I was just blown away."

In addition to reviewing this ongoing research at Mushroom Mountain and fielding questions from the audience, Mr. Cotter visited with JDLH students and teachers to discuss how they might expand farming operations at this school to include harvesting mushrooms as part of food production operations here.

"To come here and have the barn and see this type of turnout from the local community interested in coming to hear a guy talk about mushrooms, about all the cool things they do, it was just an amazing experience," he said. "You're bringing these gifts forward into the next generation. There were a lot of young students here today very excited about agriculture, and we need more young people in agriculture."

What those future potential mushroom operations at JDLH might look like in practice is not yet known,

but Mr. Cotter's vast knowledge of fungi points to some potential options.

"Student can absolutely grow mushrooms on the campus; there are couple different ways to do that," he said.

Some potential strategies might include growing mushrooms in the forestland around the campus, indoors in an enclosed greenhouse, or even "inter-cropping" with other agriculture products.

"We've grown mushrooms right in row crops, right underneath other species because they're getting rained on, they're getting shade, and they also help each other," Mr. Cotter added.

Mr. Cotter's visit to the JDLH campus was inspired by a recent field trip organized by JDLH librarian Jennifer Brown in March. Students enjoyed a firsthand look at Mr. Cotter's ongoing research into the benefits of fungi.



OUR SENIORS' COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Anna Cross, Grayson Chassereau, Allyson Wright, Jaquez Perry

Appalachian State University

Aestas Hodge, Valarie Vaquez Lafontaine

Asbury University

Marion Hollinsworth

Clemson University

Riley Cox, Jake Parker, Leon Fulmer

College of Charleston

Jake Parker, Hadleigh Corcoran

East University Tennessee State University

Jason Connors

Fort Valley State University

Jaquez Perry

Gardner-Webb University

Aestas Hodge

Mississippi State University

Grayson Chassereau

Montana State University

Jason Connors

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

Grayson Chassereau

Piedmont Technical College

Kyle Gilreath, Leon Fulmer

South Carolina State

Kyle Gilreath, Jake Simpson, Jaquez Perry

University of Arkansas

Hadleigh Corcoran

University of Alabama

Hadleigh Corcoran

University of Kentucky

Marion Hollingsworth

University of Mount Olive

Jake Simpson

University of South Carolina

Hadleigh Corcoran

University of South Carolina Beaufort

Allyson Wright

University of Tennessee Knoxville

Jake Parker

Western Carolina University

Aestas Hodge, Hadleigh Corcoran

West Texas A&M University

Trey Haddon, Anna Cross

Wingate University

Aestas Hodge



HUNTER MORTON NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

During the Awards Day ceremony held May 6 at the historic McKissick Chapel, Hunter Morton was named Teacher of the Year for 2021-2022 at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture.

Mr. Morton, a graduate of Clemson University, holds his bachelor's degree in agricultural education and his master's degree in wildlife and fisheries biology. He teaches in the Environmental and Natural Resources pathway here at JDLH, and his classes include Wildlife Management, Forestry Management, Aquaculture and Agricultural Science.

Mr. Morton also coaches the field trial team here at JDLH.

In addition to Mr. Morton's award as Teacher of the Year, the 2022 Support Staff of the Year Award was shared by Officer Steve Osborne and Dan Perrin.

We congratulate all on their honors and thank them for serving the ongoing mission here at JDLH!



AWARDS DAY 2022



Family members of the late Laurie S. Brice Sr. were on hand for Awards Day 2022, held at the historic McKissick Chapel, as Mr. Brice was inducted posthumously into the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe Hall of Fame. Mr. Brice had served as Superintendent of the John de la Howe School from 1967 to 1979. The current school classroom building is named in memory of Mr. Brice.



Prior to attending the FFA / 4-H Banquet the same night, Kyle Gilreath was honored at the Awards Day 2022 ceremony with the President's Award, presented by our agency's President Tim Keown.



AWARDS DAY 2022



John C. Shiflet Jr., who served as Superintendent of the John de la Howe School from 1979 to 1999, was inducted into the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe Hall of Fame during the Awards Day 2022 ceremonies held at the historic McKissick Chapel. Several family members attended the awards ceremony with Mr. Shiflet, who previously was honored for his service to the school with the naming of Shiflet Hall.

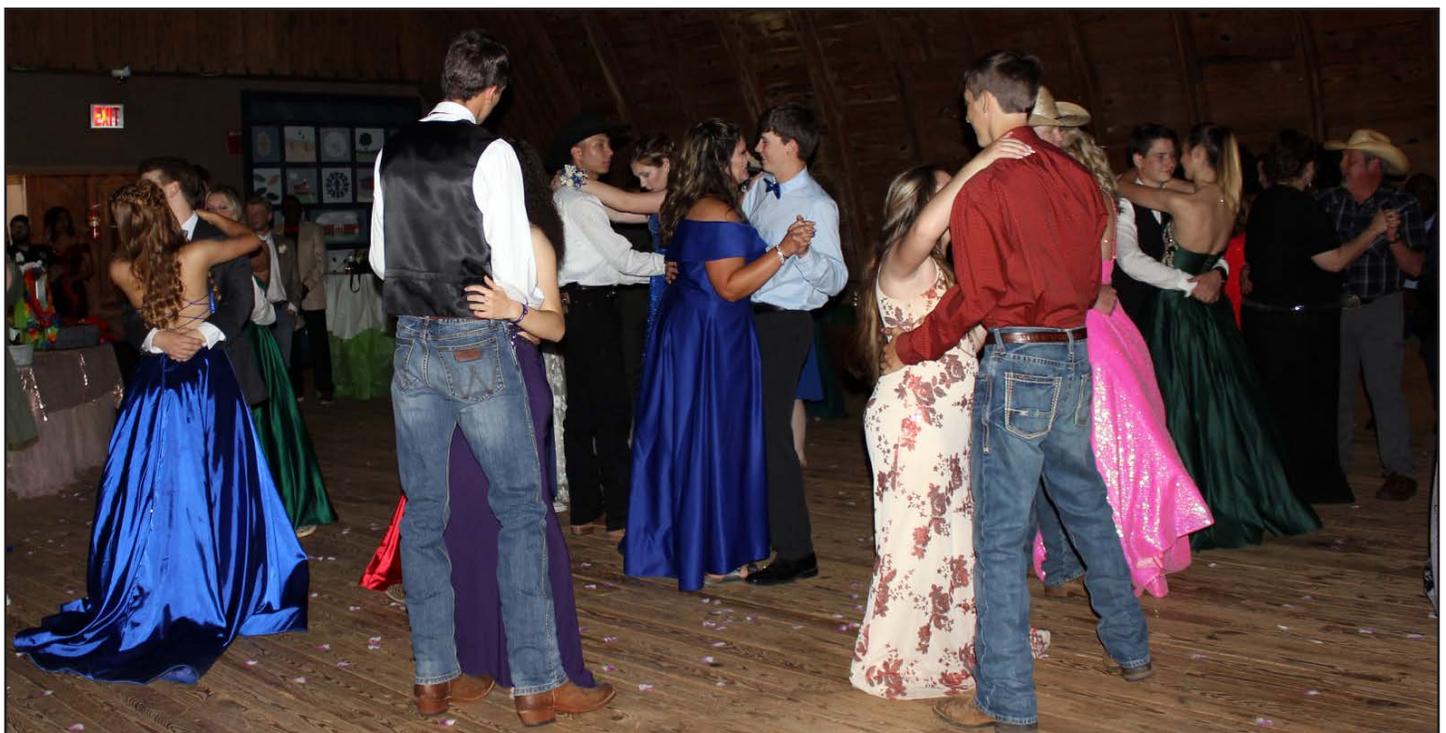


Caitlyn Krout was the recipient of the Principal's Award at the Awards Day 2022 ceremony. The award was presented by our school principal Greg Thompson in honor of Caitlyn's school achievements.



PROM 2022

The 2022 JDLH Prom was held Friday night, April 22 at the Dairy Barn. The theme this year was "Secret Garden," and the students danced the night away and enjoyed a delicious selection of party foods. Jake Simpson and Ally Wright were honored as Prom King and Prom Queen.







YOUNG LEADERS HONORED AT FFA / 4-H BANQUET



The slate of incoming 2022-2023 FFA officers was introduced during the FFA / 4-H Banquet. They are (from left) reporter JC Chandler, secretary Sierra Tinsley, vice-president Kyleigh Adams, co-presidents Hannah Mosley and Caitlyn Krout, and sentinel JD Miller. Incoming treasurer Sidney Grantham was unable to attend the banquet.



The current South Carolina FFA Association vice-president Quinten Miller was the banquet's special guest speaker. He was a member of the Saluda High School FFA chapter and is currently a freshman at Clemson University. He spoke to the outgoing and incoming officers about the importance of his FFA experience and the value of service.



Graduating senior FFA officers were honored during the FFA / 4-H Banquet. They included (from left) Lee Fulmer, Kyle Gilreath, Jake Simpson, Marion Hollingsworth, Anna Grace Cross, Hadleigh Corcoran and Trey Haddon. They participated in the ceremonial hanging-up of their FFA jackets, symbolizing the end of their service to the FFA.



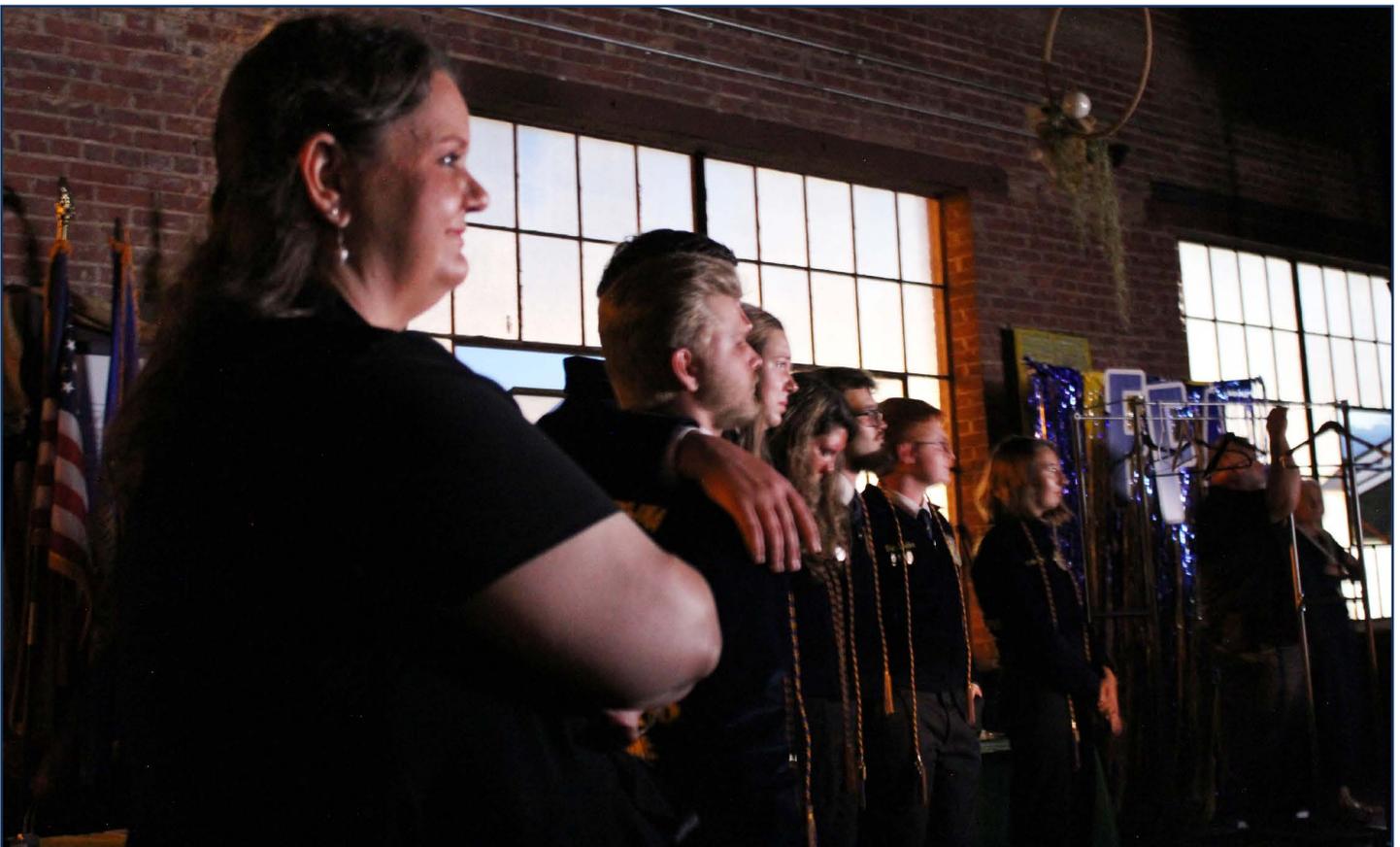


MORE SCENES FROM THIS YEAR'S FFA / 4-H BANQUET...





MORE SCENES FROM THIS YEAR'S FFA / 4-H BANQUET...





PENDLETON FARMERS' SOCIETY

Members of the first-ever graduating class at JDLH recently were honored at a meeting of the historic Pendleton Farmers' Society by being inducted into membership. Kinsley Miller, director of Education Center, and our principal Greg Thompson also were inducted into the prestigious organization. The Pendleton Farmers' Society, with its origins dating back to 1815, is the nation's oldest agricultural society still meeting today.



BILTMORE FARM VISIT

In mid-April, the JDLH Library's Real World class toured the the farming operations at the historic Biltmore Estate near Asheville, N.C. Students learned about the field-to-table programs at Biltmore and toured the palatial house and gardens built for aristocrat George Washington Vanderbilt II and still operated by Vanderbilt's descendants. The massive 250-room mansion and estate in the North Carolina mountains represent the largest privately-owned home in the United States.



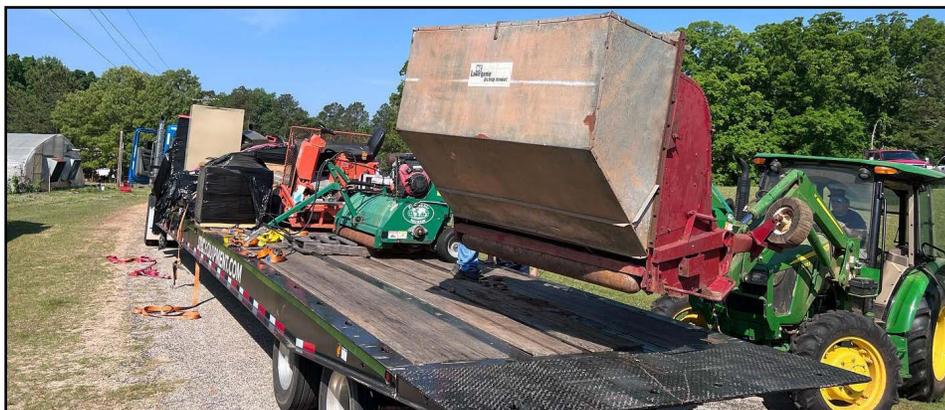
JDLH RAMBLES TO THE RIDGE

In mid-April, a group of our students visited two large agricultural enterprises in South Carolina's nearby Ridge region to get a firsthand look at how these large farms function. Jason Rodgers led the students on a tour of Titan Farms and its sizable peach farming operations near Ridge Spring and Monetta, while Corbin Yon welcomed our students to Yon Family Farms and its beef cattle operations in the RS-M community.



EQUIPMENT DONATION

Representatives of STEC Equipment Inc. in Anderson recently visited the JDLH campus with a number of ag mechanics tools and projects for our students. We appreciate Mr. David Taylor of STEC for his ongoing support of our ag mechanics program at the Governor's School.



NEW HYDROPONICS TOWERS START GROWING

Students at JDLH recently prepared three new hydroponics towers donated to the school by the South Carolina State University 1890 Research and Extension. One of the towers was located inside the JDLH Library, while Mr. Mann's classes assembled and planted another hydroponics tower. This vertical growing technology represents one more example of the innovative agriculture techniques being explored by students here.



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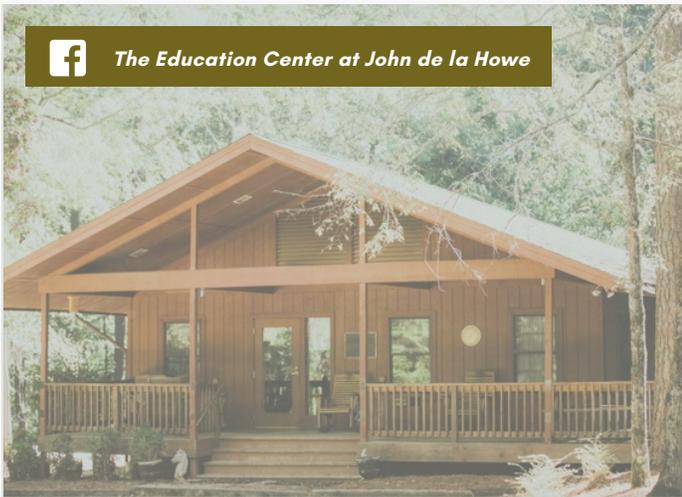
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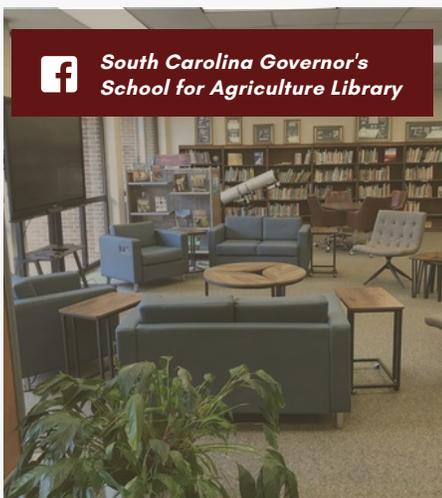
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The Education Center at John de la Howe



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