



Press Release

University Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JSU STUDENTS LANDSCAPE HAMER GRAVESITE FOR SUMMER PROJECT

(JACKSON, Miss.) – More than a dozen Jackson State University students recently spent their Saturday toiling on landscaping projects at the Fannie Lou Hamer Gravesite/Pavilion & Park in Ruleville, Miss., as part of a national volunteerism program.

Called the “Fannie Lou Hamer Project,” one goal of the program is to help restore the gravesite, pavilion and parkway named after one of Mississippi’s most famed civil rights activists. Hamer is best known for saying, “I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

Organizers of the project selected the city-owned site because it has suffered from “tremendous neglect” since Hamer passed away more than 25 years ago. Over the years, various student groups from across the country have spent weekends sprucing up the rural site.

In addition to the cleanup, the project also focuses on engaging students throughout the nation to participate and support the Fannie Lou Hamer Project at their local colleges and universities. It also seeks to educate the current generation about Hamer’s contributions to civil and human rights.

Students involved in the recent landscaping effort from Jackson State are participants in Summer Development, an academic enhancement program for incoming freshmen.

“When we approached the Summer Development students about volunteering on this project, they were excited about traveling to the Mississippi Delta and about this service project,” said Tim Abram, coordinator of Jackson State’s Community Service/Service Learning Center.

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Jackson State students volunteering for the project included Julian Alexander, Adrian Bobbett, Michael Barksdale, Cardell Bryant, Stephanie Daniels, Eric Davis, Ebony Epps, Dante Green, Landon Grigsby, Mitchell Hall, DeJuwan Hamilton, Felecia Spann, Eric Taylor, Keith Varner, Justin Pace, Bianca Wimberly and Kwantasia Williams.

Staff volunteers included Valerie Shelby, director of Jackson State's Community Service/Service Learning Center; Mandy Strong-White, Sherry Rankin and Tim Abram.

For more information about the JSU Community Service/Service Learning Center, call (601) 979-1294.

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