

# Sam Houston State University

## Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences

*A Member of The Texas State University System*  
Huntsville, Texas 77340

---

### A Resolution for the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences Centennial Celebration 1909 - 2009

- Whereas:** In 1909, Sam Houston Normal Institute President, Harry F. Estill, established the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Manual Arts; and
- Whereas:** S.C. Wilson was the first Department Head for Agriculture and A.B. Mays was the first director for the Department of Manual Arts; and
- Whereas:** The mission of each department was to educate students on new and modern techniques in farming and industrial trades; and
- Whereas:** In 1917, the US Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act which established the Vocational Education Board; and
- Whereas:** In 1918, Sam Houston Normal Institute was the only college in the United States approved by the Federal Vocational Education Board as a Vocational Agriculture and Manual Arts training institution; and
- Whereas:** \$19,500 of federal money was allocated by the Smith-Hughes Act to construct a facility for agriculture, home economics, and manual arts courses; and
- Whereas:** This fourth permanent structure on campus was officially named the Industrial Arts Building, but often referred to as the Agriculture Building by many; and
- Whereas:** In the 1920s, the department name of Manual Arts was changed to the Department of Industrial Arts; and
- Whereas:** In 1921, Sam Houston Normal Institute purchased 100 acres of land for the creation of a school farm, later becoming what is known as the Agriculture Center; and
- Whereas:** The Agriculture Department utilized land and structures adjacent to campus for teaching skills in vegetable production, later becoming the site for the Sam Houston Memorial Museum; and
- Whereas:** In the 1940s, Sam Houston State Teachers College President, Harmon Lowman, established the Josey Vocational School to certify veterans for employment in fields of electricity, welding, auto mechanics, leather craft, furniture making, construction, and many other “hands-on” skills; and
- Whereas:** In 1943, the first masters degree in agriculture was awarded; and

**Whereas:** At the conclusion of World War II, the University, for \$1, purchased 800 acres of land that was a German prisoner of war camp, later becoming known as Country Campus; and

**Whereas:** The Josey School was moved to Country Campus and agriculture students, referred to as Farm Boys, were allowed to live and work on the facilities; and

**Whereas:** In 1977, the name of the Department of Industrial Arts was changed to Industrial Education and Technology and Sam Houston State became one of only six universities in the country to certify citizens with work experience in the Industrial Arts to teach trades and industry subjects in public schools; and

**Whereas:** In 1990, 125 acres of the W.S. Gibbs Estate was acquired by the university through a donation and purchase agreement with Mrs. Ruth Farrington Faris, the widow of W.S. Gibbs; and

**Whereas:** In 1993, Sam Houston State University sold Country Campus and purchased the remaining W.S. Gibbs Estate, now appropriately called the Gibbs Ranch Education and Research Facility; and

**Whereas:** In 2004, the Agricultural Sciences and Industrial Technology programs merged into one department and became the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences; and

**Whereas:** In the past century, the department has certified over 5,000 teachers in both Agriculture and Industrial Education; and

**Whereas:** The Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences continues to expand its teaching mission, offering degree programs in specialized areas of Agriculture, Agribusiness, Agricultural Engineering Technology, Animal Science, Horticulture and Crop Science, Construction Management, Design and Development, Electronics, Industrial Technology, and Industrial Safety Management; and

**Whereas:** In 2009, the department continues to maintain its national merit as one of the top ranking non-land grant universities with exceptional academic programs and unprecedented enrollment of 1,130 students; therefore

**Be it Resolved:** That September, 2009 be designated as the Centennial Anniversary of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences at Sam Houston State University and that its faculty and staff, both past and present, be recognized and commended for its one hundred years of service to educating citizens of Texas and for the contributions they have made to society through teaching, research and service.

Signed:

---

Dr. James F. Gaertner, President  
Sam Houston State University

---

Todd Staples, Commissioner  
Texas Department of Agriculture

---

Kevin Brady  
U.S. House of Representatives  
8th District of Texas

---

Lois Kolkhorst  
Texas State Representative  
House District 13

---

Dr. Stanley F. Kelley, Chair  
Department Agricultural and Industrial Sciences  
Sam Houston State University

September 26, 2009

Author: Dr. Stanley F. Kelley, Chair  
Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences

