



**2022 Bonnie Teater
Lifetime Achievement Award
Recipient**

Joy Moten-Thomas

Fort Valley State University

The Southern Rural Development Center is proud to honor Ms. Joy Moten-Thomas as the 2022 recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award*. Ms. Moten-Thomas has over 25 years of experience working with diverse minority audiences, inclusive of youth and adults throughout Georgia. In March of 2003, she began her career in Extension as Fort Valley State University's (FVSU) first housing specialist. Since 2011, she has served as the assistant administrator for community development and outreach. In this role, Ms. Moten-Thomas develops needs-based programming and delivers technical assistance to limited-resource clientele, along with public and private entities, local governments, and non-profit organizations throughout Georgia.

Ms. Moten-Thomas is a strong community advocate, which has shown brightly through her outreach efforts. As a housing specialist, she developed and implemented the university's first homebuyer education program, *HomeGrown*, graduating over 150 participants. Additionally, she created and implemented Georgia's first statewide housing conference, *Under One Roof*, to educate community stakeholders about the various federal and state funding opportunities and programs available to support housing development in Georgia's communities. Additionally, Ms. Moten-Thomas has strengthened community by linking local government to both financial and non-financial resources, helping to bring rural and economic programs like *Strong Economies Together* to the state of Georgia, and spearheading education efforts at the nation's capital with Georgia's congressional leaders to represent the needs of the college and constituents served and supported by the 1890 Land-Grant mission.

Ms. Moten-Thomas' extensive grantsmanship experience has benefited limited resource clientele she serves, with over \$5 million secured throughout. Within the last two years, amidst the pandemic, she secured more than \$1.4 million to benefit the needs of the state's socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

In addition to service to her state, Ms. Moten-Thomas has also been instrumental in providing leadership across the Southern Region and nationally. She has chaired both the Southern Rural Development Center's advisory committee and the Southern Region Community Development Program Leaders' Committee. Nationally, she serves as the 1890 Liaison for the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals, as well as a seasoned grant panel reviewer and panel chair for several of the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture's competitive funding opportunities.

In support of Ms. Moten-Thomas' nomination, Dr. Mark Latimore, Associate Dean of the Cooperative Extension Program, at Fort Valley State University, stated, "She carries herself with dignity and respect and represents our program with this same regard at the national, state, and local levels". Ms. Doris Evans-Gates, Manager of the Georgia WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs at the Georgia Department of Health, stated, "[Ms. Moten-Thomas] has been extremely instrumental in increasing the visibility of the Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension Program and fostering community development and partnerships throughout the state. Her dedication and efforts are invaluable to the farm community and our program recipients".

Without a doubt, the work of Ms. Moten-Thomas in the field of Community Development demonstrates the spirit of this prestigious award. Therefore, it is most fitting that Ms. Joy Moten-Thomas be honored as the Southern Rural Development Center's 2022 recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award*.