

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

February 2022, Vol. 13, Issue 2



Message from the Chair Dr. Chandra Reddy

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
As we celebrate Black History Month, we reflect on the lessons of the past so that they may inform and champion our present struggles. Black History Month is not a mere observance but about ensuring a legacy of freedom for generations to come. Let us remember that Black history is American history and how integral African Americans have been to every chapter in the American story. Throughout February, I look forward to commemorating four centuries of Black history in America and the tragedies and triumphs of the African-American experience. I am proud to represent communities in the ARD region with a long history of rich African American cultural life and civic contribution, and of course, the seminal contributions to support the mission of the land-grant system.

The 1890 land-grant universities have made significant contributions to the local, regional, national and global food systems through academic, research and Cooperative Extension programs in the food and agricultural sciences. We recognize the dedication and incredible talents of many people who positioned the 1890 universities for a bright future with their creativity and innovation.

This edition of *ARD Updates* includes an article entitled "1890s Black History Month Campaign." The 1890s Land-Grant Marketing and Communications Committee is leading a social media campaign this month to raise awareness and appreciation of the 1890 land-grant system and each of the 19 institutions. To illustrate the ongoing relevance of the 1890s and the need for increased state, federal and private support, the campaign focuses on the positive impacts black scholars, researchers and Cooperative Extension faculty are making now and over the last 10 years.

See Reddy on Page 3

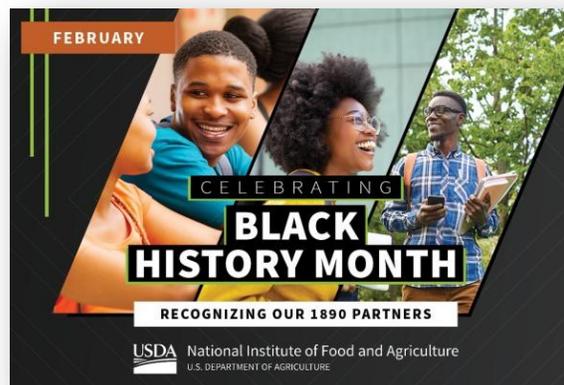
Celebrating Black History

As we focus on celebrating Black History in February, NIFA will work together to ensure it's not a once-a-year celebration but a recognition and a conversation that is encouraged all day, every day.

NIFA's priorities reflect how important it is for the agency and the Department of Agriculture to address relevant issues around diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility for people of all

racial backgrounds, especially those who have been historically underserved and, in some instances, left out and yes, even purposely discriminated against. We are working to ensure that will never be our story. All NIFA leadership and staff participated in the *Coming Together for Racial Understanding* program in January. It is our first step to encourage conversations about race and cultural understanding so we might engender mutual trust within the agency and with our partners.

This month in celebration of Black history, NIFA also highlights 1890 researchers with a [blog](#) and a month-long social media campaign recognizing the critical research and outreach of 1890 land-grant universities. In addition to launching its own social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter, NIFA provided a social media toolkit to our land-grant university partners to encourage them to promote the work of 1890 land-grant universities as well as the impacts they have made in research, Extension and education to promote health and wellness, prevent chronic disease, eliminate disparities and build a culture of health within historically underserved communities. The toolkit is available online here: [USDA NIFA Social Media Communications Toolkit: February 2021](#).



1890 Foundation celebrates fifth anniversary

The 1890 Universities Foundation (1890 Foundation) was established to strategically mobilize the 1890 community to support collaborative, high-impact programs at 1890 land-grant universities. In response to this challenge, the 1890 universities' leadership created the Foundation to act on behalf of the collective of 19 strong institutions. What began as a small team of two professionals, a part-time president and a part-time grants administrator, has grown into a staff of four full-time professionals and a team of specialized consultants who work to advance the 1890 agenda in the areas of resource development, policy administration and support for the Centers of Excellence. The 1890 Foundation is celebrating its fifth anniversary during Feb. 21-25, with a week of special virtual events.

Dr. Mort Neufville, a highly respected leader in the 1890 agriculture and food industry, was selected by the Foundation's Board of Directors to activate the vision for the 1890 Foundation and has served as the president and CEO since its inception.

"Leading the work of the 1890 Foundation has been the capstone of my career and a vehicle to leverage and scale the knowledge trust that exists among my colleagues who together have dedicated our careers to the 1890 Universities and the communities we serve," he said. "I especially want to acknowledge the Association of Research Directors (ARD) for working in partnership with the 1890 Foundation to reinforce the seamless coordination of activities needed to produce effective outcomes for both the 1890 Foundation and the advancement of academic research to address 21st-century challenges."

Over the past five years, the 1890 Foundation has successfully:

- Built infrastructure for the Foundation's operating structure and future sustainability.
- Mobilized a more enhanced, focused federal advocacy approach on behalf of the 1890 universities.
- Spearheaded the launch of four Centers of Excellence with two additional centers scheduled for 2022.
- Raised \$2 million in private sector funding with \$1.3 million.

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday, Feb. 23
10 a.m.-Noon | EST

Virtual discussion with Dr. Ranveer Chandra, Chief Scientist and Technologists for Microsoft's Agri-Food Industry Sector. Chandra will discuss his role leading Microsoft in partnering with faculty, researchers, and industry to provide the latest Microsoft technologies to support the development of innovative technologies in the agri-food space. ARD members will receive a special invitation with the registration link for this research-focused discussion.



FSLI accepts applications for upcoming cohort

Applications are now being accepted for the 18th cohort in the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) starting in the fall of 2022.

FSLI offers executive leadership development to upper-level leaders in higher education, government, and industry to prepare them to meet the leadership challenges and opportunities of the future. The two-year FSLI experience includes three week-long residential sessions, personal leadership coaching, mentoring, a personal development plan, distance learning activities and an individual leadership project. The FSLI is designed for experienced leaders. Fellows include leaders from various



sectors, including education, industry and government. Participant titles include program or division directors, provosts/vice presidents, experienced department heads/chairs, deans and associate deans, and others working in

leadership of administrative capacities.

More information can be found [here](#). The application process is online. See the "Apply" section of the website. Follow [them on LinkedIn](#).

1890s create system-wide Black History Month campaign

Happy Black History Month. This month, the 1890s Land-Grant Marketing and Communications Committee is spearheading a social media campaign to raise awareness and appreciation of the 1890s land-grant system and each of the 19 institutions. To illustrate the ongoing relevance of the 1890s and the need for continued state and federal support, the campaign focuses on the positive impacts our Black scholars, researchers and Extension faculty are making now and over the last 10 years.

Developed by Virginia State University's College of Agriculture Director and Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications, Michelle Olgers and Erica Shambley, the campaign consists of unbranded graphics accessible to anyone [here](#). Those wishing to participate may use these graphics on their own social media pages with institutional-specific messaging.

The campaign also consists of three hashtags: MakingBlackHistory, #1890sMakingBlackHistory and #[Institution]MakingBlackHistory. Institutions are encouraged to use all three for the greatest impact. Plus, Shambley and Olgers encourage participants to please consider tagging some of our land-grant partners at @USDA_NIFA on Twitter and @nifa_usda on Instagram and @APLUNews on Face-

book.

According to Shambley, "The strategy is based on each 1890 institution posting a

She added, "The importance of using the hashtags and tagging our USDA-NIFA and APLU partners cannot be overstated, as they have committed to supporting us by sharing our posts throughout the month."

Olgers explained that the 1890s Land-Grant Marketing and Communications Committee has recently been in conversations with the APLU Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources (FANR) Communications and Partnership's team to discover ways of working together to more efficiently elevate the 1890s land-grant brand. APLU's featuring this social media campaign in their February Communications Tool Kit directly results from this effort. A report will be generated in early March quantifying the campaign results.

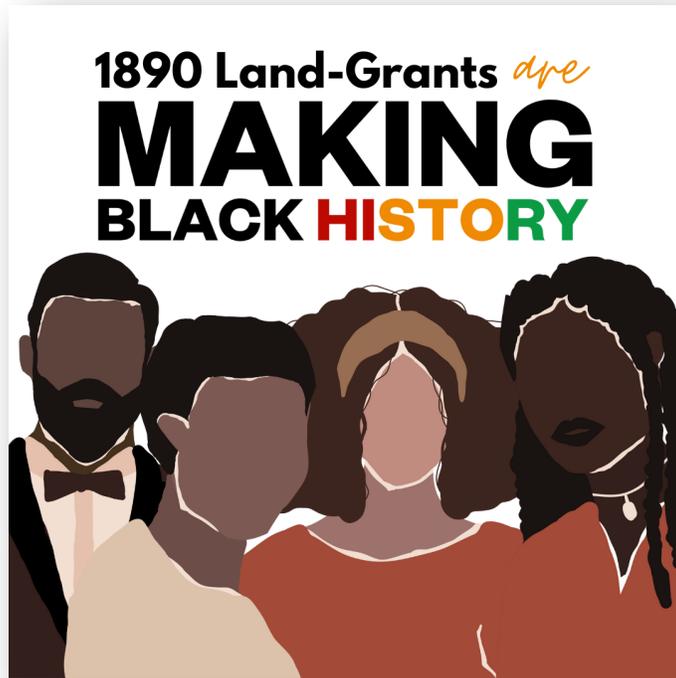
To see what institutions are posting, click on any links below.

#1890sMakingBlackHistory

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

#MakingBlackHistory

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)



minimum of once a week in February on their social media platforms stories about their land-grant leaders and impacts, using various mediums such as videos, photos, graphics, and of course, the written word. Calls to action in the posts can include applying for a scholarship, visiting a website or an invitation to engage with the post itself."

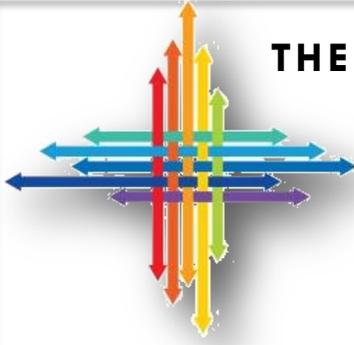
Reddy ... from page 1

Last month, ARD, AEA and the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture held our fifth annual joint business meeting. Like 2021, we convened virtually. Our meeting focused specifically on the FY 2022/2023 appropriations, priorities and advocacy strategies, the centers of excellence, the 1890 scholarship program, collaborations between research and Extension on climate change, communications and marketing and collaborative opportunities with the Health Resources Services Administration, Partners of the Americas, Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS), and the Southern Rural Development Center. Following a very informative presentation by the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, the NIFA administrators, led by Dr. Carrie Castille (Director) and NPLs spent Monday afternoon with us discussing educational, research and Extension funding opportunities, including the flagship Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Program. Presenters also updated us on the 1890 programs portfo-

lio, grants and financial management, planning, accountability and reporting and NIFA reporting system (NRS).

Kudos to my colleagues, Vonda Richardson, AEA chair; M. Ray McKinnie, Deans' Council chair; Albert Essel, AEA executive administrator, and Alton Thompson, ARD executive director, for planning and implementing a very impactful series of sessions that were both content-rich and allowed sufficient time for discussions of concerns crucial not only to the 1890s but to the land-grant system.

Let's celebrate Black History Month as outlined above by the 1890s land-grant Marketing and Communications Committee and the Committee's collaborative efforts with the APLU Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Communications and Partnership's team. I also highlight an article entitled "Celebrating Black History" that encourages conversations about race and cultural understanding to engender mutual trust within NIFA and its partners.



THE 1890 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA: PATHWAYS TO BUILD BACK BETTER

April 2 – 5, 2022 | [Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA](#)

Registration – Nov. 13, 2021 – Feb. 25, 2022—\$575

Late Registration – Feb. 26 – March 25, 2022—\$625

On-Site Registration - \$650

REGISTRATION

Pay by purchase order, check or credit card. No funds (Note: Credit card users need to pay an additional fee to cover bank charges). [Register here.](#)

HOTEL REGISTRATION

[Atlanta Marriott Marquis Reservations](#)

[Hotel Guest Room Rates:](#)

Single and Double Occupancy: \$194

Tax and Surcharges: Hotel rates are confirmed in 2022 and are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 16.9% plus a \$5.00 per night State of Georgia Hotel Motel fee) in effect at the time of check in. Deadline to book, March 10, 2022.

DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS

Each 1890 campus is invited to display a university display at no-cost. Additional exhibits and non-1890 exhibits must pay the fee of \$2,000 by Feb. 11, 2022. All exhibitors, including the 1890s, must submit the Exhibit Registration Form by the deadline of Feb. 11. [To become an exhibitor, click here.](#) [To become a sponsor, click here.](#)

COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

To ensure the safety of all attendees, ARD will follow all relevant protocols and CDC guidelines provided by the Atlanta Health Department. We will also work closely with the Atlanta Marriott Marquis to comply with their protocols to ensure all participants have the added confidence of industry-leading hygiene practices. These protocols will be posted prominently on the symposium website by the end of February.

For additional information contact:

[Dr. Alton Thompson](#), ARD Executive Director, (336) 285-2955 or

[Dr. Orlando McMeans](#) (225) 771-4310.

NIFA chief visits Tuskegee; 4-H members

On Jan. 5, NIFA Director Dr. Carrie Castille visited Tuskegee University. In addition to faculty presentations of NIFA-funded projects, Castille toured the James H.M. Henderson Hall, the college's state-of-the-art teaching, Extension and research building and visited the historical sights on campus to get a greater understanding of Tuskegee University programs and facilities and some of the challenges facing the faculty and the community.

"It was the first week of Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller's term as dean of the college," Castille said. "What an honor to spend some time with her in that first week and hear about her vision for this special institution. Her leader-

ship, passion and dedication will be a phenomenal asset to the land-grant university system and agriculture for years to come."



Before her campus visit, Castille spent the morning with students in a 4-H program at the local Macon County Extension office that provides enrichment activities on virtual learning days for local schools.

"I always feel so inspired after talking to 4-H'ers and watching the care and commitment of the 4-H leaders to serving our next generation," she said. "As a 4-H'er myself, I know the long-lasting impact these experiences will have on the lives of these young people."

Central State creates Water Resource Management facility

The International Center for Water Resources Management at Central State University (CSU) was formally created by the State of Ohio by H. B. 171 in 1987. The law stipulated that the Center shall develop methods to "improve the management of water resources of Ohio and emerging nations." This mission is directly linked to that of the university in offering programs with multi-cultural and global perspectives with particular emphasis on African and African American cultures; collaborating with other educational institutions, business organizations and government agencies to enrich learning experiences and educational opportunities for students and in providing quality educational programs in the scientific technical fields where minorities have been traditionally underrepresented.

Central State University is the only 1890 land-grant HBCU institution with an undergraduate program in water resources management. The ICWRM supports the trans-disciplinary training of students enrolled in academic programs housed in the College of Engineering, Science, Technology, and Agriculture (CESTA). The ICWRM supports students seeking bachelor's degrees from the Department of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Department of Manufacturing Engineering, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, the Department of Water Resources

Management and minors in environmental science. The WRM program is an environmental/resource management program that focuses on water and aims to offer a high-quality education towards careers related to conservation, water planning and environmental/water policy, public works management and water quality.

This facility has approximately 44,000 square feet of space and contains research laboratory spaces for teaching undergraduate courses in water chemistry, water quality, limnology, environmental engineering, hydrology and hydraulics, solid wastes management, air quality, soils, basic geology and water and environmental remote sensing. The facility is equipped with several instruments in the water quality lab, such as gas chromatograph-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrophotometer (ICP-MS). Other instruments include a CNS analyzer, Astoria2 Analyzer system, a YSI ProDSS multiparameter meter, OTT MF Pro Flow Meter, noise meters, SO₂-H₂S analyzer and Nikon Total Station. The center also houses the Wastewater Treatment, Hydraulics/Hydrology, Air Quality and Noise, Soils, Geology, and Geospatial Laboratories and Remote Sensing /Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The ICWRM is equipped to conduct cutting-edge research to address the current climate change vulnerabilities and their impact on the need for protection of our natural resources and development of strategies for climate-smart agriculture as outlined in the new 2021 Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (APCAR) policy Executive order (E.O.) 14008 by President Biden.



ARD OFFICERS

Chandra Reddy
(Chair)

Tennessee State University
Email: creddy@tnstate.edu

Louis Whitesides
(Chair-Elect)

South Carolina State University
Email: lwhitesides@scsu.edu

Majed El-Dweik
(Secretary)

Lincoln University
Email: dweikm@lincolnu.edu

Conrad K. Bongi (Treasurer)

Tuskegee University
Email: cbongi@tuskegee.edu

Shirley Hymon-Parker
(Member-at-Large)

N.C. A&T State University
Email: sjhymonp@ncat.edu

Vernon Jones
(Immediate Past Chair)

Langston University
Email: vjones@langston.edu

Non-Elected
Alton Thompson
(Exec. Director)

Email: athompson1@ncat.edu

1890 Land Grant Universities

[Alabama A&M University](#)
[Alcorn State University](#)
[Central State University](#)
[Delaware State University](#)
[Florida A&M University](#)
[Fort Valley State University](#)
[Kentucky State University](#)
[Langston University](#)
[Lincoln University](#)
[North Carolina A&T State University](#)
[Prairie View A&M University](#)
[South Carolina State University](#)
[Southern University and A&M College](#)
[Tennessee State University](#)
[Tuskegee University](#)
[University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff](#)
[University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#)
[Virginia State University](#)
[West Virginia State University](#)

ARD Updates is published monthly by the Association of Research Directors. To suggest articles, contact Dr. Alton Thompson at athompson1@ncat.edu

USDA'S ARD is now accepting applications for the 2022 [1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program](#) (1890 FRSP). This program is an opportunity to conduct a research sabbatical at an [ARS location](#) and is open to research- and tenure-track 1890 land-grant university faculty who have been employed for a minimum of three years at their current institution. Sabbaticals are six to 12 months and may be completed in consecutive months or in two parts (e.g., summer sabbaticals). Sabbaticals are funded at up to \$125,000 to support expenses such as salary, housing, travel and research costs. Sabbaticals awarded in the fiscal year 2022 program may begin as early as Sept. 1. To apply, 1890 LGU faculty and ARS researchers must submit a single, jointly developed proposal to be submitted internally through ARS. Applications are due April 4.

NEW APPOINTMENT

DR. ERDOGAN MEMILI, Prairie View A&M University, research director, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences

NEW PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS

CHRONIC DISEASES: THE ESCALATING DILEMMA IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES by [Adelia Bovell-Benjamin Ph.D.](#) For a summary, [click here](#). For information, please contact Bovell-Benjamin, Department of Food & Nutritional Sciences, College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences, Tuskegee University, abovellbenjamin@tuskegee.edu

The nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) released **INVESTING IN RURAL RECOVERY: FINDINGS FROM A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT** from a national survey. Read [full report here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The [USDA Forest Service Economics and Policy Research Work Unit](#) in the [Southern Research Station](#) is seeking applicants for a permanent, full-time position at the [GS-12 level](#) as either a research economist or research forester researching the economics of forest-based natural disturbances and forest products markets and trade. The position will be located in Research Triangle Park, NC. The application portal on USA Jobs opened on Jan. 31 and will stay open through Feb. 22. To view more information on the position and apply, please [visit this link](#).

CALENDAR

ENVISIONING 2050 IN THE SOUTHEAST: AI DRIVEN INNOVATIONS IN AGRICULTURE | March 9-11, Auburn University. [Click for details](#).

SOUTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS SECTION MEETING | Monday, Feb. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. General SAAS program and hotel reservation information can be found on the [SAAS website](#). Please note that the registration will be on-site only. The registration fee will be \$100. Cash, check or credit card accepted. Registration will include the general SAAS session and welcome reception/dinner on Sunday late afternoon/evening, and lunch on Monday during our meeting and a conference phone for call-in participation.

2022 NERAOC CONFERENCE | April 10-14, 2022 | St. Louis, MO. [Details here](#).

2022 AEA SYSTEM-WIDE EXTENSION CONFERENCE | July 30 - Aug. 4 | Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld

JOINT ESS/CES-NEDA MEETING | Sept. 25-28 | The Marriott Baltimore Waterfront in Baltimore, MD. [Click for details](#).

JOINT CARET/AHS ORIENTATION WEBINAR, Feb. 18, 2 p.m. EST | The Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) and the Administrative Heads Section (AHS) are putting on a webinar, "Pre-meeting Training: All about the Request" for CARET and AHS members. Please consider registering today. Registration link for AHS/CARET orientation webinar is at: ["Teamwork: Making the Request."](#)

JOINT CARET/AHS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, March 6-9 | The theme of the meeting is "Land-grant University Relevance - Solving Problems, Connecting for Solutions." After Monday's events, in coordination with university administration, CARET/AHS will meet with federal decision-makers to advance the vision and mission of the land-grant university system. Event details and registration are here: [2022 Joint CARET/AHS Annual Spring Meeting](#).

JOB

