

# ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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Dr. Moses Kairo

## Message from the Chair

Dr. Moses Kairo

On behalf of ARD, I would like to congratulate Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy on being announced as the new president of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Sonny is the ideal person for this role given the current state of higher education. His emphasis on excellence, high quality and innovative science and education, student success and accountability is just what the NWCCU needs now.

It is essential that the NWCCU have a top scholar and seasoned administrator like Sonny who can provide the desired direction and mature and contemporary leadership. I'm quite sure that Sonny will move the Commission into new areas and collaborative partnerships and to do so in a manner that portrays visionary leadership for the year 2020 and beyond. Sonny is the right person for this new role in higher education.

From the beginning, the 1890 research directors were impressed with the professional manner in which Sonny handled his high-profile position in USDA as well as being equally impressed with his knowledge base, intellect and acumen. Simply stated, we like his style. As we all know, Sonny is goal oriented, quick in analysis of the problem and he is deliberate in devising potential solutions. In working closely with him on various projects over the years, I found Sonny to be very adept at finding solutions to worthwhile problems and increasing the welfare of those he serves. Sonny is intrinsically motivated and is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all his endeavors. He is an effective communicator, a problem solver and expects colleagues and employees alike to put forth their best efforts in whatever endeavor they undertake. I have found Sonny to be a very fair and empathetic individual

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## McMeans nabs APLU leadership post

Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, vice president for Research and Public Service at West Virginia State University (WVSU), has been named to the Board of Directors for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), a research, policy and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

McMeans now serves on the board in a commission representative role, by virtue of his newly elected capacity as chair of APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Policy Board of Directors. McMeans began his term as BAA Chair earlier this month in San Antonio, TX, and is the *first* person to be elected to the position from an 1890 land-grant university.

"I am extremely grateful to the leadership at APLU and my peers across the land-grant system for having the confidence in me to be appointed to these two important international leadership and advocacy roles," McMeans said. "While I deem it important for me first and foremost to represent all the constituents that comprise the APLU member institutions, this platform will allow me an opportunity to represent West Virginia State University and advocate for those areas of importance to WVSU and the State of West Virginia."



Dr. Orlando McMeans

## Trade announcements may delay Farm Bill

There is increasing concern the Farm Bill could be delayed and/or repurposed to support farmers suffering from the potential trade situation. President Trump directed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue "to use his broad authority to implement a plan to protect our farmers and agricultural interests." On Wednesday, April 4, 2018, Secretary Perdue said that the prospect of a prolonged trade war could require that Congress take "some extraordinary measures" in the next farm bill. (*POLITICO's Morning Agriculture*).



## Student Costa Rican travel opportunities available

With support from NIFA for the last three years, Delaware State University, Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University have provided experiential learning opportunities for their students to study in Costa Rica for the summer. Two years ago, Florida A&M University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore joined this project team.

Over the last three years, 39 students from these five participating universities have visited two universities in Costa Rica, CATIE and EARTH, where they experienced the challenges of the diverse agricultural system in the country. The students participated in hands-on experiential learning in areas such as eco-tourism and agroforestry, received orientation on the various tropical agro-ecologies and enjoyed first-hand cultural and Spanish language experience. They also attended very informative lectures and demonstrations of ornamental export models by



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service and Agricultural Plant Health Service personnel.

Through this international collaboration with Costa Rican universities, the project team has built strong partnerships with these institutions, and they have facilitated and accommodated these students in ways that help to strengthen their international competencies. The host institutions have fine-tuned the student's interest, and have consolidated an infrastructure in terms of a

strong alliance among the institutions and built a foundation that other HBCUs can capitalize on. This linkage will facilitate the entry of other interested HBCUs, thereby strengthening their curriculum for international experiential learning.

There are some remaining slots for interested students for year's mission, to be held July 14 to Aug. 4. Interested students should contact [Dr. Marikis Alvarez](#) (302-857-6484) or [Dr. Conrad Bonsi](#) (334-727-8333).

### Kairo ... (from Page 1)

and actively listens to all points of view before drawing conclusions. He is constantly searching for new ideas and ways to improve even what may be considered the best of

The 1890 community will always be grateful, as Sonny's visionary and inclusive leadership has allowed many of us to gain confidence in shaping our programs to be more effective

and efficient in delivering our missions. On the ARD front, we will continue the legacy that he will leave at NIFA that positioned the 1890 discovery and education enterprise to be in a more competitive space.

The 1890 research directors truly appreciate Sonny and wish him well in this new chapter of his career. Also, the land-system will miss him profoundly. His combination of intelligence, passion and wit is an exemplary mix. NWCCU is indeed very fortunate to have grabbed him as their new leader.

Finally, in the February 2018 edition of *ARD Updates*,

we congratulated our colleague, Dr. Orlando McMeans of West Virginia State University, for his leadership roles as the chair of the Board of Agriculture Assembly's Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and Board of Agriculture Assembly's liaison to CARET. Now, two months later, Orlando has been elevated to the Chair of the Policy Board of Directors (PBD) of Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA). Orlando – Congratulations again (*please refer to the article "McMeans Nabs APLU Leadership Post"*).

situations. Also, as we also know, Sonny does not hesitate to point out poor performance when necessary and make difficult decisions in a timely manner.

Sonny has truly been an ardent supporter of the 1890 universities, and a great inspiration for me personally. His accomplishments over the last six years in support of the land-grant system have been exceptional as manifested most succinctly by the number of new programs/initiatives and the business process re-engineering associated with NIFA.

**"Simply stated,  
we like his style."**

*- Kairo on  
Ramaswamy*

### Time and Effort webinar available for viewing

NIFA's Office of Grants and Financial Management presented a webinar on April 5 that previews the time and effort reporting presentation to be made at the [2018 National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference](#) (NERAOC) in Grand Rapids, MI, April 22-25, 2018.

The webinar was conceived as a way for Extension administrators and directors to hear the presentation in advance in order for them to engage with their business officers ahead of this NERAOC conference. The webinar was viewed by nearly 120 participants with Maggie Ewell, senior policy analyst for NIFA's Office of Grants and Financial Management, and Natalie Bush, manager of Financial Operations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, moderating.

The content of the webinar was a collaborative process involving NIFA's Office of Grants and Financial Management, the BAA Cooperative Extension Section and the BAA Experiment Station Section. [View the webinar here.](#)

## USDA offers \$8.4 million for 2501 Grants

The USDA Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement (OPPE) announced up to \$8.4 million in available funding for training and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers. Funding is made through the USDA's Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program, also known as the 2501 Program.

The 2501 Program was originally authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990. The 2501 grant seeks to enhance the equitable participation of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA resources and programs, such as Farm Service Agency loans or grants through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP). Projects may focus on conferences, training sessions, educational materials, or new programs to help these farmers and ranchers thrive and succeed.

The deadline for applications is May 15. See the [request for applications](#) for full details. To learn more about this funding opportunity through a teleconference on April 25 at 2 p.m. EST. To join this session, call 1-888-455-1685 and use passcode 7087935.



## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES

### DSU offers second grant preparation conference

On May 10 – 11, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Delaware State University will hold its second Grant Preparation Conference at the Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, 1131 N. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE.

Registration is \$100 and includes access to national program leaders, poster session breakouts, facility tours, mentoring and lunch. Registration is \$20 for students.

New investigators, 1890, HBCU, HSACU and 1994 faculty are highly encouraged to attend and to submit abstracts. [Visit the conference web page](#) to register for the conference by April 29:

### VSU schedules ginger and turmeric conference

Virginia State University is hosting the first National Ginger & Turmeric Conference in Richmond, Va., Oct. 17-19. The three-day conference is targeted at the agricultural, health and culinary professionals who work or are considering working with ginger and turmeric. It will showcase the latest science and technology related to production, product development and health and feature success stories and marketing strategies.

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS** - Abstracts are now being accepted for oral and poster presentation. [Submit your abstract now.](#) A conference proceedings documenting oral presentations and poster displays will be published post-conference.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND**—farmers, horticulturists, researchers, health professionals, Cooperative Extension faculty, professionals in the nutrition supplement industry, professionals in the food and beverage industry and chefs.

**WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED**—keynote speakers, technical sessions, poster and oral abstract presentations, Ginger and Turmeric 101 Workshop, networking opportunities and tours.

**CONFERENCE LOGISTICS**—Conference registration fee is \$250. Lodging is not included in the registration fee. Registration will be open soon. The conference hotel is the [DoubleTree Richmond Midlothian](#).

[Visit the conference](#) website for updated information as it becomes available. You may also contact Dr. Reza Rafie at [arafie@vsu.edu](mailto:arafie@vsu.edu) or 1-804-712-4600.



## Faculty Positions – LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

### Assistant/Associate Professor in Forest/ Natural Resource Management Assistant/Associate Professor in Molecular Biology

Lincoln University of Missouri, Jefferson City, MO is seeking highly motivated, creative individuals to apply for an assistant/associate professor position of Forestry or Natural Resource Management, with a preferred emphasis of forest or agri-forest management, and an assistant/associate professor position of Molecular Biology, with a preferred emphasis of plant- or animal-based applications in the College of Agriculture, Environmental, and Human Sciences. These are 12-month, federal-funded, non-tenure track, full benefit-eligible faculty position with 100 percent research responsibilities.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** The successful candidates, respectively, will be expected to develop a high-impact, nationally recognized research program to address the critical or emergent issues in the field of forest and natural resource management, conduct innovative laboratory/field research activities, and to address the critical and emergent issues is agricultural production, conduct innovative research applicable to plant or animal breeding, nutrition, disease control, food safety and production. In addition, the successful candidates will be expected to write grant proposals for extramural funding to support research programs, publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals, develop collaborative projects with faculty within the university and other institutions, and contribute to relevant professional societies. The incumbent may also be required to teach courses relevant to their expertise, supervise graduate students, and provide department, college and/or university service or any other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Individuals, respectively, are sought with a Ph.D. in forest, natural resources management, ecology, environmental science, or closely related field; and with a Ph.D. in molecular biology, biology, bioengineering, or closely related field. Applicants must have demonstrated ability to conduct quality research, publish research articles in impactful peer-reviewed journals, and secure extramural funding through grant proposal. Experience of postdoctoral research and teaching is preferred. Background with GIS training or research is highly desirable. Interpersonal, effective oral and written communication skills and a willingness and ability to work in a team-oriented environment with a diverse group of faculty are essential.

**APPLICATION:** Submit a [Lincoln University Employment Application](#) form, cover letter, curriculum vita, statement of research and extension interests, official university transcripts and three current letters of reference to: Human Resource Office, Lincoln University, 101 Young Hall, P.O. Box 29, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-0029.

**DEADLINE:** Applications will be reviewed beginning June 1, until the position is filled

**SALARY BENEFITS:** Commensurate with qualifications and experience.



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**Alton Thompson**  
(Exec. Director)

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### 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](mailto:athompson1@ncat.edu)

## ARD CALENDAR



### 2018 NATIONAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

April 22-25, Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI.

Registration Fees

- Regular Fee - \$705 (until April 15, 2018)
- Onsite Fee - \$735 (after April 15, 2018)

Registration for NERAOC 2018 is **open** and closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 15.

[Register for the conference here.](#) Onsite registration will be available on Sunday, April 22 from 2-6 p.m. (EST).

**Cancellation Policy -**

Cancellations received between March 17 - April 15 will be subject to a \$200 cancellation fee. No funds will be given for cancellations on or after April 16, or for conference no-shows.

[Click for more conference information.](#)

**Accommodations -** Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible. For more information, contact [Betsy Braid](#) at 517-884-7081.

### JOINT COPS MEETING

July 15-17, 2018

Excursions will be offered Wednesday, July 18

Guadalajara, Mexico. Hosted by the Universidad de Guadalajara



Experiment Station  
Committee on Organization  
and Policy (ESCOP)

### ARD SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING

July 13-14, 2018

Guadalajara, Mexico. Hosted by the Universidad de Guadalajara

### APLU 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

New Orleans, LA, Nov. 11-13.

Register today for APLU's 2018 Annual Meeting, the premier gathering of senior leaders from public research universities, land-grant institutions and state university systems. No other meeting in higher education brings together such a diverse array of public university presidents, chancellors and other senior leaders.

Join us as we tackle the challenges facing public universities. The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is *Resilience*. The meeting sessions will explore the capacity of universities, their communities and partners to adapt and thrive no matter what stresses or acute shocks they experience.

[Click for more information.](#)



ASSOCIATION OF  
PUBLIC &  
LAND-GRANT  
UNIVERSITIES