

Politico article focuses on healthy food's research at 1890 universities.

# ARD Updates

THE ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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DR. VERNON JONES

## Message from the Chair

I thank you for participating and being fully engaged in ARD's summer business meeting and the Joint COPS summer meeting in Park City, Utah. The theme for those meetings was, "Land-grant Universities: Renewing our Relevancy through Community Resilience." It was quite timely and the joint sessions on USDA's role in renewing its relevancy through community resilience, the rural initiative, climate change and sustainability in teaching, research and Extension and advocacy strategies were excellent.

Although the ARD agenda was quite ambitious, I will focus briefly on three important takeaways – the centers of excellence, scholarships for students at 1890 institutions and the NIFA Engagement Study and 1890 Roundtable on Engagement.

The centers of excellence and scholarships for students at 1890 institutions were authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill and signed into law on Dec. 20, 2018. Because these two programs are new, RFAs will have to be developed, vetted and distributed by a NIFA staff that will be greatly reduced in size and experience due to the relocation to Kansas City. Therefore, the 1890 community is not optimistic these programs will be timely implemented.

Concerning the centers of excellence, since the Appropriations Act of 2019 preceded the signing of the 2018 Farm Bill, the three centers of excellence approved in 2015 will be funded first. These centers are – the Center of Excellence to Motivate and Educate for Achievement, the Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development and the Center of Excellence for Innovative and Sustainable

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## Lincoln's Yang nabs NSF grant

Lincoln University (Missouri) has been recently awarded a \$499,915 NSF grant for nano research entitled "Elucidating uptake mechanisms of silver/zinc oxide nanoparticles into food crops and transport through soil ecosystem." Dr. John Yang, professor of environmental chemistry in the College of Agriculture, Environmental and Human Sciences, will serve as the project director for this three-year, multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional project, in a collaboration with Missouri University of Science & Technology and Texas A&M University.

This research will be focused on studying the accumulation and transformation of agriculturally common nanoparticles in the plant-soil ecosystem, in an effort to address the bioavailability, fate and risks to food safety of agricultural nanoparticles. Findings generated from the project will address critical societal concerns on the potential benefits, ecological impacts and limitations of nanotechnology for agricultural applications and significantly advance our understanding of nanotechnology applications in agriculture.

In addition, the project will also strengthen the STEM education, build-up research capacity at the university and provide opportunity to train underrepresented or underserved students for STEM or agricultural careers.



DR. JOHN YANG

## NIFA report online

NIFA's 2018 Annual Report has been published. This year's report highlights the exciting work undertaken by NIFA-funded grantees in the areas of research, education and Extension.

As Director, J. Scott Angle, notes in his introduction, "This annual report includes powerful examples of the many NIFA-funded research, Extension and education solutions that address societal challenges. I look forward to the transformative and remarkable discoveries that our grantees will make. Read the full [NIFA 2018 Annual Report](#)."



Visit us online at [www.umes.edu/ard](http://www.umes.edu/ard)

# 1890 Universities Foundation presents year in review

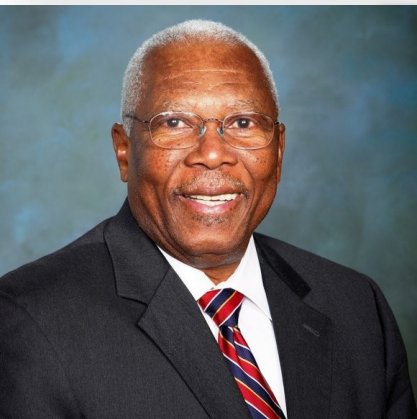
By: **MORTIMER H. NEUFVILLE**, *President and CEO* &  
**KEN JOHNSON**, *Grants Manager*

Together, the 1890 Universities Foundation and the 1890 community have made significant progress in support of the Foundation's mission and vision to facilitate partnerships, foster collaborations with USDA agencies and implement centers of excellence across the 1890 community.

Over this past year, there has been significant movement in several key areas: the reauthorization of the 2018 Farm Bill, the appropriation of mandatory funding for scholarships to boost enrollment at the 1890 universities and funding for the centers of excellence top the list of accomplishments. While there is more to be done to cement the operational aspects codified in the 2018 Farm Bill, we feel confident that the successful programs at our universities will demonstrate our need for additional funding to implement the centers of ex-

meetings and advocate for the Foundation during visits to key Congressional offices.

- A delegation of 1890 deans and directors visited Morocco and participated in the Kings International Agricultural Conference. They presented the 1890 exhibit, signed an agreement with the Hassan II University and discussed possible agreement with the University of Meknes.
- Conducted the Foundation Annual Board Meeting, which included continuing advocacy and engagement with Hill staff to advocate for the 2018 Farm Bill and inclusion of the Centers of Excellence.
- The Foundation provided leadership for *Good Agricultural Practices* (GAP) training meeting in Atlanta which was attended by approximately 34 farmers and faculty from 15 1890 universities. Support was provided the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).



**“The 1890 Universities Foundation’s activities will continue to achieve meaningful outcomes through our coordinated leadership of our community of 1890 land-grant universities ...”**

**- Mortimer Neufville**

cellence and attract more students. Considerable attention has been given to strengthening 1890 partnerships with key federal agencies including key USDA agencies. We introduced a series of Roundtable discussions to facilitate strategic planning and coordination between the 1890 universities, federal agencies and other funders engaged in international food and agricultural development. To date, we have hosted two Roundtable sessions and facilitated a third session between ARD-NIFA.

With the continued support and involvement of the Board and our funding partners, there are several high-impact activities and opportunities on the horizon. The 1890 Universities Foundation’s activities will continue to achieve meaningful outcomes through our coordinated leadership of our community of 1890 land-grant universities working closely with The Council of Presidents, AEA, ARD and the academic deans.

## **2018-2019 Foundation Key Activities – Year in Review: 2018 – June 2019 Activities**

- Presented Foundation updates to AEA, ARD and Council of Deans during joint AEA/ARD meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Provided updates on Foundation priorities at CARET

- Participated in the HBCU Innovation Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Conference (ICE) in Silicon Valley. Discussion focused on increasing the number of HBCU STEM graduates who are workforce ready. APLU’s Office of Access and Success provided support and leadership.
- With support from U.S. Forest Service, the 1890

Foundation hosted a Roundtable to facilitate discussion on *“Exploring, Engaging, Executing Partnerships”* between USDA agencies, USAID and partners involved in international food and agricultural development.

- A Best Practices Conference was convened in Atlanta and facilitated by the Foundation, with funding from the Rural Development Agency. The conference provided technical assistance to famers and producers involved in the small farm program.
- Presented at the REE/NIFA listening session on 1890 Foundation mission and vision to implement six centers of excellence, as authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Hosted Roundtable 2 in partnership with U.S. Forest Service to extend the discussion from Roundtable 1 with a focus on international engagement and actionable strategies for operationalizing and leveraging MOUs.
- Assisted with an ARD-NIFA focused Roundtable on enhancing the 1890 university participation in NIFA’s competitive funding programs. Incorporated data-driven approaches and the role of federally funded research initiatives at 1890 land-grant universities in driving entrepreneurship and the innovation economy in the discussion.

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## 1890 Foundation . . . from page 2

### Activities and Opportunities on the Horizon:

The 1890 Universities Foundation will continue to pursue activities and opportunities that facilitate partnerships, mobilize and leverage resources and strengthen collaborations with USDA agencies and other federal agencies stakeholders, global partners and funders.

There are several mission-focused activities and opportunities on the horizon as we look ahead:

### Policy Initiatives:

- **2018 Farm Bill** – ensure that the 1890 Universities Foundation is positioned to be the conduit between USDA and the community of 1890 land-grant universities relative to the implementation of the first three centers of excellence which are currently provided for in the 2019 appropriations.

### Collaborations and Partnerships

- **Continue to Convene Roundtables** – to facilitate a coordinated approach for informed, strategic engagement between 1980 universities, USDA agencies and other federal agencies and stakeholders.
- **1890/USDA Task Force** – revisit, review and rethink concept and determine next steps.
- **South African Embassy and 1890 Universities Foundation Collaboration** – at the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture, South African Embassy, discussions are planned to establish a partnership through a formal MOU that will involve the South African Ministry of Agriculture’s Research Institute, the former *technicons* (now universities), and interested 1890 universities, to assist in the privatization of disadvantaged universities and small farmers in South Africa. Discussions are ongoing.
- **Working with Delaware State University** - to extend their current

MOU with EARTH University to the entire 1890 community.

### Mobilizing and Managing Resources:

#### Centers of Excellence:

- Developed the center of excellence concept notes and shared with NIFA for consideration.
- Pursue additional funding partners to enhance resources needed to establish robust and innovative, 21st century centers of excellence.
- Held conference calls with 1890 leadership to discuss next steps in implementation and funding strategies for the three centers.
- Worked with the deans and the mission areas leadership to draft a working document for the implementation of the 1890 scholarship program.
- Continue discussions with NIFA on a timetable for implementation of various 1890 priorities in light of their impending move to Kansas City.

## Virginia State to host National Conference on Outreach and Ag. Development



During this two-day conference, participants will learn ways to grow and strengthen their programs in expert educational sessions and panel discussions on the most important emerging issues for agriculture-related outreach, including:

- Identifying Financial Resources & Strategies to Help You Create and Sustain Farmers.
- Engaging the Next Generation of Farmers.
- Estate Planning, Land Transition and Heir Property.
- Creating a Local Food Hub With Faith-Based Organizations.
- Engaging Tribal and Native American Communities.
- Empowering Underserved, Minority and Military Veteran Farmers.

Virginia State University’s Small Farm Outreach Program in partnership with Minority Outreach Network and USDA will host the first National Conference for Outreach and Agriculture Development on Sept. 10-11, at the Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, VA.

Outreach professionals who lead or conduct activities to support farmers and agricultural production through non-governmental organizations (NGOs), grass roots organizations (GROs), schools, universities and state and federal organizations are encouraged to attend.

- Improving Communications and Customer Relations.
- Finding Solutions to Reduce Farmer Stress and Prevent Suicide.
- Agritourism.

Early registration, by Aug. 19, is \$250 per person. \$300 per person beginning Aug. 20.

[Registration](#) includes all general and concurrent sessions, breaks and meals planned for the conference. See the conference agenda below for details (subject to change.) For overnight accommodations, see [Travel & Lodging](#) for information and available rates.

## Jones . . . from page I

Small Farms, Ranches and Landowners.

As discussed, ARD, with the support of the 1890 Universities Foundation, proposes the following recommendations to be considered by NIFA:

- The RFA will be issued by NIFA by Sept. 9th requesting a Letter of Intent (LOI) to host a center.
- Participation will be open to all 1890 universities and the review process will facilitate inclusion of each university in at least one center, assuming all respond to the RFA.
- NIFA's support in encouraging the 1890 universities to come together in a unified approach to enable a consortium of universities submitting one proposal for each center.
- The three centers must be multidisciplinary and integrated across the three mission areas.
- Any institution within a consortium that expresses interest in assuming fiduciary management responsibilities must demonstrate a clear record of accomplishment of financial stability and accountability, with no critical or pending audit findings.
- There shall be no matching requirements, but partnerships and collaboration with industry, other government agencies, international organizations and institutions are encouraged.
- It is anticipated that FY 2020 appropriations will be guided by the 2018 Farm Bill which states that at least three centers of excellence will be funded at \$10 million each year (the 2018 Bill lists six 1890 Centers of Excellence).
- The center proposals for 2019 must define clearly, in their sustainability plan, how they hope to be integrated into the FY 2020 funded centers.
- When the FY 2020 solicitation is drafted, there should be a requirement for inclusion of the 2018 Centers.

The goal of the Scholarships for Students at the 1890 Institutions Program is to increase the number of students at the 1890 institutions studying the food and agricultural sciences, natural resources and other related disciplines. ARD proposes the following:

- The eligible majors/degree options include all areas of study listed under Title VII, Sub Title A, Section 7102 of the NAR-ETPA of 1977 and/or major areas of studies in the 1890 schools/colleges of agriculture.
- These scholarships are competitive; each university must document the competitive process used to select the recipients.
- Each recipient will be awarded a renewable scholarship on entry for a period of up to four years depending on his or her level at entry.

- Transfer students are eligible.
- Continuation of awards will be based on each university's policy governing satisfactory progress towards graduation.
- Each scholarship covers the following costs after the Pell grants, if applicable, and other grants, have been awarded – full tuition, student fees, room and board, textbooks (or e-books), laptop and software while on scholarship.
- Each recipient must have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or better (on a 4.0 scale) and/or a combined verbal/math score of 1,050 or more on the SAT or a composite score of 21 or more on the ACT.
- Each recipient must demonstrate leadership and community service.

In addition, to document the program's impact, the 1890 universities will collect and report data on student recruitment, retention, graduation and job placement.

The ARD executive director re-affirmed that the purpose of the 1890/NIFA Roundtable on Engagement was to (1) present the findings of an institutional survey conducted by the ARD on research capacity, challenges and needs of 1890 land-grant universities and (2) to present trend data on the historical 1890 university funding performance to highlight and seek ways to enhance synergistic engagement strategies with NIFA and other federal agencies. Thus, the focus of our discussion was not only on the inhibitive barriers and/or obstacles faced by the 1890s and other minority serving institutions (MSIs) in participating more fully in competitive programs, but we identified, based on the data, gap areas where new investments are needed to develop the collective capacity of minority serving institutions. Based on these data, some of the major factors that inhibit 1890 and other MSI's participation in federal competitive programs include, but are not limited to, heavy teaching loads, lack of matching funds, perceptions of potential reviewer bias, limited/no institutional support, too much work for uncertain outcomes, lack of financial incentives and a need for faculty development.

Based on these data, the gap areas where investments are needed include, but are not limited to, a more coordinated NIFA strategy to involve MSIs, more targeted programs and resources, data-driven initiatives/outreach, better leveraging of program personnel and connections, leveraging NIFA funding to attract more resources and synergistic partnerships with MSIs and other federal agencies. The 1890 research directors will recommend strategies and tactics to increase the competitiveness of the 1890s and MSIs.

I look forward to working with the membership in these important areas as we continue to chart a path forward to implement ARD's strategic agenda, "**bold** Transformations 2025."

### SCIENTIFIC POSTER COMPETITION

Call for Abstracts | Deadline: Monday, Sept. 2, 2019 by 5 p.m.  
Tuskegee University | [Click for additional information.](#)

Dr. George Washington Carver's legacy has left a fingerprint on the DNA of Tuskegee University's continued recognition of his work, the Food and Nutritional Sciences Advisory Board, the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences, and the College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences present the George Washington Carver Lecture Series (GWCLS).



GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
CARVER  
Lecture Series

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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](#)  
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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)



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### ASSOCIATE RESEARCH DIRECTOR – SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Open Date: July 1, 2019 | Closing Date: Open Until Filled

**Minimum Requirements:** A Ph.D. in agriculture, community development, family and consumer sciences or a related field required. Ten years of experience, including a minimum of five years in research with administrative experience desired. Middle- to senior-management level supervisory skills is a must. Must possess effective communication skills and the ability to successfully operate in a team leadership environment. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing. Ability to make presentations and prepare reports. Must be sensitive to the completion of tasks and meeting deadlines.

**Preferred Requirements:** A Ph.D. in agriculture, community development, family and consumer sciences or a related field required. Fifteen years of experience, including a minimum of 10 years in research administrative experience desired.

[Click for additional information including description of duties and responsibilities.](#)

## ARD CALENDAR



### JOINT ESS/CES/NEDA MEETING

*“Leading the Future: Changes, Opportunities, and Relationships”*

Sept. 23-26, 2019, Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt University, 2555 West End Ave., Nashville, TN  
(Reservations: 615-321-1300)

The Joint ESS/CES-NEDA Meeting [registration webpage](#) is now available. The site includes the following menus across the top of the page, also attached is the overall schedule for your convenience.

[Summary](#), Draft [Agenda](#), [Hotel and Transportation](#), [Fees and Policies](#) and [FAQs](#).

Please note that the early registration deadline is Sept. 3 and hotel block reservation deadline is Sept. 2.



### APLU ANNUAL MEETING – Nov. 10-12, 2019 – San Diego, CA, Hilton San Diego Bayfront

[Register today.](#)

The theme of the 2019 APLU Annual Meeting is *In Service*. The meeting session will examine how public universities can better serve their students, communities and country at a time when their work is more essential than ever. The meeting will also mark the 100th anniversary of Veterans Day and include a celebration of the veterans who have left an indelible mark on the institutions where they study and work. In addition, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the 1994 Morrill Act and certain sessions will honor the contributions of the 1994 land-grant institutions.

**77TH PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE – (PAWC)** *“Beyond the Veil, One World – One Family: Changing the World Through Agricultural Transformations, Integrative Partnerships and Sustainable Practices and Policies”* | Dec. 8-10, 2019. Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National & The Kellogg Conference Center. [Registration](#). [Hotel](#).

