

ARD Updates

THE ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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Dr. Vernon Jones

Message from the Chair

During this Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit, I say, simply but sincerely, "Thank you and best wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year." Under our thoughtful and authentic leader, Dr. Moses Thairu Kairo, dean and research director of the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences at the

University of Maryland Eastern Shore, ARD made considerable progress during 2016-2018, and charted a course forward to 2025. Moreover, in this spirit, I sincerely, thank our members, researchers, supporters and friends who have worked tirelessly to advance ARD's vision, mission and goals.

At our November 2018 meeting in New Orleans, I accepted the gavel from Dr. Kairo, who did an awesome job as ARD Chair. As stated above, in addition to being a thoughtful leader, Dr. Kairo has also been an authentic leader, defined by author Bill George, as "people of the highest integrity, committed to building enduring organizations . . . with a deep sense of purpose and are true to their core values . . . and who have the courage to build their organizations to meet the needs of all stakeholders." Truly, Dr. Kairo served with authenticity and ARD benefitted tremendously from his character-based leadership. His broad knowledge base, commitment, dedication to the food and agricultural sciences and his keen insight to the problems, issues and trends facing students, educators and administrators position him as a highly valued colleague in the land-grant system.

I am both humbled and excited to have been elected by you to serve as your next ARD chair. I thank you for the confidence and trust that you have placed in me. I am committed to serve you with commitment and passion. Given that 2019 is the 40th ARD Anniversary, I will strive to make

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Strategic Realignment Committee considers moving to one-line model

At the recent APLU Annual Meeting, the Strategic Realignment Committee (SRC) provided an update to members of the Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) who were in attendance. At that time, the SRC discussed a three-line approach but was considering a one-line model.

At its Nov. 30th meeting, the SRC, chaired by J. Ernest Minton, Kansas State University, agreed to recommend a single top line with three subcategories: Extension/Engagement, Research/Discovery and Education/Learning. These three categories include all 45 discretionary lines in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) budget.

Earlier, the SRC provided a Cornerstone Government Affairs' webinar, *Appropriations 101*, that clarified the current process by which Congress provides funding to NIFA. This webinar used an earlier discussion model to provide examples of what would occur if there were realignment within the NIFA budget. The discussion also provided details on how functional and programmatic integrity would be maintained. This webinar has been removed in favor of a new presentation using the current SRC recommendations.

Two webinars will be available in the very near future. The first will be a very tightly scripted, short, pre-recorded format providing a brief background and explanation of the Committee's work leading up to and including the final recommendation. The second will be an updated explanation of the appropriations process with examples of how a realigned budget process might work. A series of FAQs will also be available.

These webinars will constitute communication of the Committee's recommendations to the BAA family and beyond. All interested parties should carefully watch both webinars. In addition, the SRC will schedule a series of conference calls to discuss recommendations, answer questions and address concerns that might arise.

The Committee will be seeking input from regional associations, sections, stakeholder groups, NIFA and others before making its final recommendations to the BAA Policy Board of Directors. If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact [Alton Thompson](#) or [Albert Essel](#).



Visit us online at www.umes.edu/ard

SRDC investigates developing collaborative heirs' property efforts

The Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC), one of four Rural Regional Development Centers (RRDC) in the country, has begun to explore the issue of heirs' property, a problem that deeply impacts the Southern region.

The USDA defines heirs' properties as "land that has been passed down informally from generation-to-generation. In most cases, it involves landowners who died without a will. Heirs' property is land owned 'in common' by all of the heirs, regardless of whether they live on the land, pay the taxes, or have ever set foot on the land."

Heirs' property issues are a leading cause of black involuntary land loss. In addition to affecting African-Americans, similar situations exist throughout the South with white communities in Appalachia, Native Americans living on tribal lands and in Hispanic *Colonias* in South Texas.

What is SRDC's role? In October 2017, as a result of increasing inquiries across the South into heirs' property issues, SRDC's Board of Directors and the Technical & Operational Advisory Committee identified heirs' property as an issue for the Center to explore as a part of its 2018 Plan of Work. To gauge the extent of resources addressing the issue, a survey was conducted with land-grant faculty from both 1890 and 1862 institutions who identified a number of key organiza-

tions and sources. This survey was a first step to avoiding duplication of work and identifying gaps in efforts to build capacity to respond to the South's heirs' property challenges. Information from the survey provides a foundation for further collaboration, and is [posted here](#).



A steering committee, consisting of a diverse array of both land-grant and non-land-grant institutions, and non-profit organizations will help guide the next steps. Having a strong working history with the issue, the 1890 institutions have been particularly helpful in guiding potential paths forward. Other vital partners include the Southern Risk Management Education Center (SRMEC), the Southern

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (S-SARE) program and the North Central Extension and Research Activity (NCERA2172).

Without the blended expertise across disciplines, states, research and Extension and across agency lines, addressing the issue of heirs' property in the South will be difficult. More is possible by working collaboratively. The Southern Rural Development Center will continue this effort into 2019, working across the region to strengthen partnership ties.

A listserv has been created to continue the conversation. To join, or for more information, please contact [Russ Garner](#).

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decisions in the context of the historical significance of ARD; that is, let's keep our past in mind; let's build upon the rich legacy of our past. In short, we 'honor' our history; however, we cannot 'rest on the laurels' of our storied history." ARD must continue to be aggressive and progressive.

I will be guided primarily by the seven challenge or priority areas conceptually outlined in the ARD Strategic Agenda (to be finalized in early 2019). In concert with ARD's Strategic Agenda, for the next two years, we will also focus on (1) developing and sustaining the Centers of Excellence; (2) being aggressive in seeking funding increases for our capacity, capacity-building and facilities programs and supporting our faculty as they compete for funding in other programs; (3) expanding our integrated and multi-state activities; (4) better communicating the impacts, accomplishments and activities of the 1890 research enterprise; (5) continuing to 'brand' ARD (a consistent message and quality over a sustained period of time); and (6) strengthening our col-

laboration with 1890 Extension. I am excited about the work before us and eagerly anticipate the results of this work.

This edition of *ARD Updates* contains a lot of important information about the 2019 ARD Research Symposium. Please visit the website for additional information about registration, deadlines, etc. An exciting symposium is being planned and I want to encourage all of us to participate in this biennial event. In addition, as we also celebrate ARD's 40th year of incorporation as a research organization, exciting events and activities are being organized. You do not want to miss this historic event.

Finally, as with any term in the ARD chairpersonship, new challenges and opportunities exist. As chair, I plan to continue to work towards ARD enhancing its status as the flagship research organization of the 1890 community; continue to brand ARD; and continue to encourage collaborative and innovative research in support of our Strategic Agenda.

2019 ARD Research Symposium

The 1890 Research Agenda: Making Critical Contributions to Rural Prosperity and Challenges in Food and Agriculture

March 31- April 3, 2019 | Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL

Registration:

Registration—Nov. 10, 2018-Feb. 24, 2019, \$525.

Late registration—Feb. 25-March 24, 2019, \$575.

On-site registration—\$600.

[Registration](#) can be paid by purchase order, check or credit card.

No refunds. (Note: Credit cards users need to pay an additional fee to cover the bank charges.)

[Hotel Registration](#)—Hotel Guest Room Rates:

Single and Double Occupancy: \$159 |

Triple Occupancy: \$184 | Quadruple Occupancy: \$209

Tax and Surcharges: 7% State of Florida Sales Tax; 6% Transient Sales, and 1% City Surcharge (subject to change). Cut off March 8, 2019.

Abstracts and Posters:

Judges for posters and oral competitions and session moderators will be needed and each director is asked to submit names and contact information electronically for those willing to serve in these capacities. [Access the form here.](#)

Morrison-Evans and Mayberry Awards

The application deadline for the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award is Jan. 18, 2019. External reviewers, i.e., NIFA national program leaders will evaluate the applications. Access the [application here.](#)

Displays| Exhibitors

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. 8, 2019. All exhibitors, including the 1890s, must submit the Exhibit Registration Form by the deadline of Feb. 8. To become an exhibitor, [click here.](#)

To become a sponsor, [click here.](#)

For additional information contact: [Dr. Alton Thompson](#), (336) 285-2955, [Dr. Orlando McMeans](#), (304) 204-4300 or Dr. [Dyremple Marsh](#), (302) 851-6400.



Needed soil health majors/expertise: Find out more at ARD Symposium



address this issue. The overarching approach is to develop soil health education, research and training programs that channel capacity building,

Feeding a global population projected to reach 9 billion by 2030 presents challenges and opportunities to regenerate and conserve soil health, which is foundational to life, civilization, and agricultural sustainability.

A wide range of farming practices, coupled with environmental processes, have contributed to substantial soil health decline in major regions of the U.S. continent, particularly in soil structure, fertility, organic matter storage, microbial activity and the many related soil functions. Recently, 20 top farm groups and organizations across the nation signed a letter supporting the USDA/ Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Soil Health effort, citing soil health management as *"part of a systems approach to agriculture production that benefits the landscape, reduces nutrient loading and sediment runoff, increases efficiencies, and sustains wildlife habitat, while providing the potential for cost savings to producers."*

According to a report released by USDA and Purdue University (Purdue,

2015), there is a high demand, at least for the foreseeable future, for college graduates with a degree in agricultural degree programs. This report emphasized that an average of nearly 60,000 high-skilled agriculture and related job openings are expected annually in the U.S. over the next five years. Some of these jobs will more than likely be related to soil health management.

Among 1890 land-grant universities, soil health education and training lacks desirable strength. Though a number of soil-related courses are offered, soil health has not been a focal area. Training students, farmers and producers with soil health management skills and techniques has never been emphasized. Few professional development opportunities on soil health science exist for faculty.

Recently, a team of 1890 land-grant universities with the assistance of USDA/ Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and NRCS soil health experts was awarded a five-year grant to

curriculum integration, experiential learning activities, internship projects, training workshops and other opportunities on soil health to faculty, students, and agricultural producers.

In light of the preceding, a special session on 'Soil Health' is being planned for the 2019 ARD Research Symposium to provide a forum to alert the full 1890 community about the vitality of soil health education, opportunities for participation and planning events for immediate elevation of soil health activities to better position 1890 faculty, staff and students for the job market and graduate study.

Superfluous to say, ethnic minorities must be equipped to occupy projected numbers in the future agricultural job market. The 1890 universities need to cultivate mechanisms to provide classroom and technical training on soil health to its students such that can take full advantage of the vastly emerging and exciting soil health career and employment opportunities.

NNF Grants Program offers graduate student funding

This grant program supports: (1) training students for masters and doctoral degrees in food, agricultural and natural resource sciences; and (2) special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances (IRTA) for eligible USDA NNF beneficiaries.

Awards are specifically intended to support traineeship programs that engage outstanding students to pursue and complete their degrees in USDA mission areas. Applicants should provide clarity about the philosophy of their graduate training and relevance to

USDA mission sciences, NIFA priorities and national science education policies and statistics.

Applications are being solicited from institutions that con-

fer a graduate degree in at least one of the following targeted expertise shortage areas: 1) animal and plant production; 2) forest resources; 3) agricultural educators and communicators; 4) agricultural management and economics; 5) food science and human nutrition; 6) sciences for agricultural biosecurity; and 7) training in integrative biosciences for sustainable food and agricultural systems.

Who is eligible to apply: 1862, 1980 and 1994 land-grant institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, private institutions of higher education and state-controlled institutions.

Click here to request an Applications. Click here to apply for a Grant.

Posted Date: Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Closing Date: Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-HEP-006673



ARD OFFICERS

Vernon Jones
(Chair)

Langston University
Email: vjones@langston.edu

Chandra Reddy
(Chair-Elect)

Tennessee State University
Email: creddy@tnstate.edu

Andra Johnson
(Secretary)

Southern University and A&M College
Email:
andrea_johnson@suagcenter.com

Conrad K. Bonsi (Treasurer)

Tuskegee University
Email: cbonsi@tuskegee.edu

Shirley Hymon-Parker
(Member-at-Large)

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

Moses Kairo
(Immediate Past Chair)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Email: mkairo@umes.edu

Non-Elected
Alton Thompson
(Exec. Director)

Email: athompson1@ncat.edu

1890 Land Grant Universities

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[Fort Valley State University](#)
[Kentucky State 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

NIFA seeks comments on 2020 Capacity Budget Requirements

The NIFA Office of Grants and Financial Management (OGFM) is seeking feedback and comments from land-grant institution stakeholders on its proposed guidance related to implementation of the requirement to submit budgets with 2020 capacity proposals. You can read more about the request [here](#). The deadline for submitting comments is 5 p.m. (EST) on Saturday, Dec. 15.

Please contact your respective Budget and Legislative Committees and help the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly, chaired by Orlando McMeans, develop a comprehensive and collective response to USDA. If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact [Alton Thompson](#) or [Albert Essel](#).

ARD CALENDAR



2019 JOINT AEA/ARD WINTER MEETING.

Jan. 22- 25, 2019

Westin Georgetown Hotel, 2350 M St., NW, Washington, DC.

Reservation Process: A block of rooms has been reserved under the name of "AEA/ARD Joint Winter Meeting. 2019". To make reservations, call 1-888-627-8406. The rate is \$184 per night plus a 14.95 percent tax per night. The rate is available two days prior and two days after the meeting, subject to availability. The cut-off date for the established room rate is Friday, Jan. 4, 2019. If you plan to attend this meeting, please contact [Mrs. Alice Pennix](#) to receive the registration form.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR IMPACT

The Southern Region of the U.S. has abundant opportunity and some enduring challenges in ensuring a safe and profitable food system, community and individual economic vitality and a healthy citizenry. The 2019 Southern Region Mini Land-Grant Meeting brings together leaders from seven groups from both 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities to explore avenues for improving the roles of each group and land-grant functions as a whole. These seven groups, including university administrators and their stakeholder representatives, are:

- Administrative Heads Section - Southern Region (S-AHS)
- Academic Programs Section – Southern Region (S-APS)
- Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD)
- Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD)
- Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED)
- 1890 Association of Extension Administrators (AEA)
- Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching – Southern Region (S-CARET)

The primary purpose for this meeting is to foster interactive discussions, planning and actions across all participating administrative units to enhance effectiveness of land-grant agricultural colleges' programs, processes and impacts through greater integration and collaboration throughout the Southern U.S. This will be an opportunity to jointly examine common issues, explore best practices and initiate new partnerships with colleagues and key stakeholders, both within your state and across the region. There will also be time for each organization to meet separately or jointly with another one, to conduct business and discuss issues specific to your group and time for informal social interaction between all participants. [Register here.](#)