

AMERICANS' PAST IN AGRICULTURE

... should be in agriculture

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

February 2018, Vol. 9, Issue 2



Dr. Moses Kairo

Message from the Chair

Dr. Moses Kairo

Last month, members of the Association of Research Directors (ARD), the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), and the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture had a very engaging and productive joint meeting to discuss a number of issues important to the 1890 community including, but not limited to, enhancing partnerships; strategic planning; the task-

force report on agriculture and rural prosperity; planning and accounta-

bility; appropriations; the farm bill, the centers of excellence; student success; communications and marketing, and so forth. Kudos to my colleagues, Dr. Carolyn J. Williams, AEA chair, Dr. Lloyd Walker, Deans' Council chair, Dr. L. Washington Lyons, AEA executive administrator, and Dr. Alton Thompson, ARD executive director, for planning and executing a very professionally rewarding meeting that was both content-rich and allowed sufficient time for networking.

The meeting left all participants upbeat and with a willingness to work a little harder and more collaboratively to develop and advance a set of goals and priorities to define a path forward to improve the quality of life and prosperity of the stakeholders we serve.

I look forward to working with Drs. Williams and Walker as we continue to shape the direction of the 1890 strategic agenda.

I am mindful of the book, "212° The Extra Degree." This bestselling book and message by Sam Parker inspired millions of people around the world to dig deeper and make better things happen for themselves and the people around them. It begins with the premise, "At 211 degrees, water is hot. At 212 degrees, it boils. And with boiling water, comes steam. And with steam, you can power a train. Just one extra degree

See Kairo on Page 2

NIFA Funding Updates

Continuing Resolution Extended Until March 23

NIFA is currently operating under a fiscal year (FY) 2018 temporary Continuing Resolution (CR) that provides funds for our discretionary programs through March 23, 2018.

The House and Senate passed this latest Continuing Resolution in the wee hours on Feb. 9, ending a nine-hour government shutdown. The \$300 billion bill lifts spending caps on defense and some domestic spending for the next two years and provides \$90

billion for disaster and relief funds for areas hit by hurricanes and wildfires. The disaster relief funding provides \$2.4 billion for farmers in these areas and supports existing USDA disaster programs for livestock producers, fruit

growers, etc. Both chambers also voted to extend the debt ceiling through March 1, 2019.

The Agriculture Appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies including the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is included in the CR.

The CR provides funding for NIFA at the FY 2016 level, less 0.1901 percent or about -\$2.5 million. Note that the CR does not impact the funding amounts for mandatory programs.

Ag Committees in both chambers plan to begin debate on the Farm Bill before the Easter recess.

NIFA Announces Support for 1890 Facilities

NIFA announced support to enhance food, agricultural, natural resource and human science facilities and equipment at 1890 land-grant institutions. Funding is made through NIFA's 1890 Facilities Grants Program (FGP).

The [1890 FGP](#) facilitates the full participation of 1890 land-grant institutions in the research, extension and education enterprises of the higher education system. [Read the full request for applications announcement.](#)

FAST FACTS



- ✓ House & Senate pass CR
- ✓ CR expires on March 23
- ✓ CR includes additional \$300 billion for domestic spending
- ✓ NIFA operating at 2016 levels



Sec. of Ag Updates

Perdue Briefs House Ag Committee on The State of Rural Economy

The House Agriculture Committee hosted U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue Feb. 6, as he briefed members on the current state of the rural economy and the USDA's recently released farm bill priorities.

Rep. David Scott raised HR 51, the 1890 scholarship bill that was enthusiastically received by the Secretary Perdue and Rep. Alma Adams raised matching grants and the Centers of Excellence with the Secretary. We have to do a Hill follow up and education on Centers of Excellence but it was good that it was raised. [Watch hearing here](#). Rep. Adams is at minute 48 and Rep. Scott is at the 1:07 minute mark.

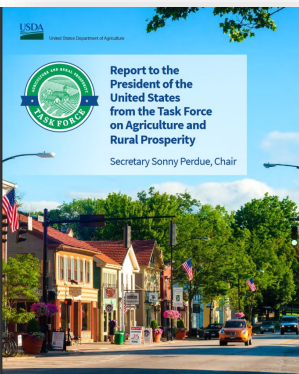
Fort Valley State, Florida A&M and North Carolina A&T were mentioned during the hearing.

Task Force Presents Rural Prosperity Report to President

On Jan. 8, Ag. Secretary Sonny Perdue presented the findings of the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to President Trump at the 2018 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Nashville, TN. On April 25, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing the task force "to ensure the informed exercise of regulatory authority that impacts agriculture and rural communities."

As Secretary of Agriculture, Perdue served as the task force's chairman and identified over 100 recommendations to help improve life in rural America. The recommendations centered on these five areas: e-connectivity, quality of life, rural workforce, technology and economic development.

Read the [Rural Prosperity Task Force Report](#) in its entirety on the newly unveiled [Rural Prosperity website](#), which includes a [link](#) for farmers, ranchers, foresters and producers to submit comments and ideas on regulatory reform.



Kairo . . . (Continued from From Page 1)

makes all the difference."

Throughout the meeting and as the meeting ended, the participants embraced the value of an extra effort (one more degree) in working together in our integrated mission areas will go a long ways to create better outcomes for the people that we serve in the 1890 region and beyond.

It is also important to note that during this meeting, AEA and ARD recognized and honored Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA director, for his exemplary and visionary leadership to the national land-grant system and for his commitment to access and opportunity for the 1890 land-grant system. In his remarks, Dr. Ramaswamy encouraged the participants to work together in a more focused and intentioned way, and to review and respond appropriately to the "Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity," chaired by USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue.

The 2018 Joint CARET/AHS meeting will be held on March 4-7 at the Hilton Crystal City at the Washington Reagan National Airport. The theme of this meeting is "Connecting Our World Through Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching." Given the political and fiscal climate at both the national and state levels, we need a record participation of administrators and CARET delegates from the 1890 universities. Our voices need to be heard! We are proud of 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.

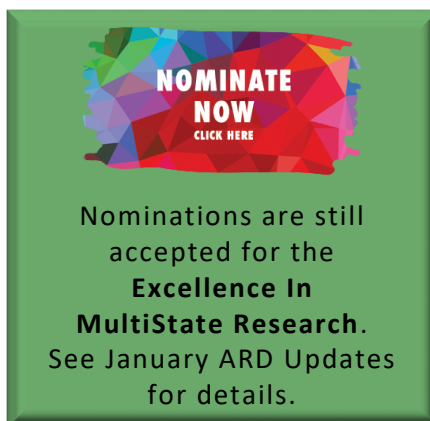
Prior to this Joint CARET/AHS meeting, all campuses should insure that their CARET representatives know our legislative priorities, namely, increasing the funding base for the 1890 capacity programs, capacity building grant program, facilities grant program, McIntire-Stennis (Forestry), and the Carryover Equity Act, and support for the 1890 Centers of Excellence. In addition, all campuses should contact members of the House and Senate to inform them of our visit and the importance of the "Single Ask Budget Request" of a \$200 million increase in our capacity and competitive funds.

ESCOP creates new Experiment Station Diversity Award

The Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) is seeking nominations for a newly designated honor, the **National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Award**. This new award recognizes experiment station research initiatives that support the creation of diverse and inclusive efforts and is dedicated to individuals, teams or organizations that go beyond meeting EEO/AA program requirements.

The [request for nominations](#) is posted on the ESCOP website. Im-

portantly, the nomination is short and



the award comes with paid travel to the

Annual ESS/SAES/ARD meeting, recognition with a commemorative plaque and a \$1,000 cash award. Questions about the nomination should be forwarded to [Jeff Jacobsen](#), executive vice chair, ESCOP Diversity Catalyst Committee, 517-884-7965.)

All nominations should be submitted as a single, PDF document to [Jeff Jacobsen](#), executive vice chair, and ESCOP Diversity Catalyst Committee by 8 p.m. EDT on March 30.

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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

ARD CALENDAR



2018 JOINT CARET/AHS MEETING

“Connecting Our World Through Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching”
Mar 4 – Mar 7, 2018 Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202



USDA 94TH ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM

Feb. 22-23, Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, VA

This year's theme is “Roots of Prosperity.” Opportunity for all interested parties to discuss rural America. To learn more, [watch this video](#).

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.](#)

2018 NATIONAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

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

Registration Fees

- Early Fee - \$685 (until March 16, 2018)
- 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 -

Refunds will be made in full for cancellations made by March 16. 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.](#)

Session Topic/Speaker Solicitation - Speaker or topic submission for NERAOC 2018 is open and closes at 11:59 p.m. on February 28.

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.

