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ARD UPdates

THE ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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DR. VERNON JONES

Message from the Chair

I sincerely thank the research directors and associate research directors for participating in and being fully engaged in the 1890/NIFA Engagement Roundtable in Washington, D.C. The continued competitiveness of the U.S. food and agricultural industry is dependent on ensuring the training of a qualified agricultural workforce. A vital

concern is that U.S. universities are training less than the projected human capacity needs of the food and agriculture industry. The purpose of the one-day roundtable was to present the findings of a recent institutional survey conducted by the ARD on research capacity, challenges and needs of 1890 land-grant universities.

Data analytics of historical 1890 university funding performance were presented to highlight and seek ways to enhance synergistic engagement strategies with NIFA and other federal agencies. Participants from ARD, 1890 land-grant universities, APLU, NIFA, NSF, NIH, UNCF, the 1890 Universities Foundation and other organizations used combined sets of data analytics as a basis for in-depth discussions of the implications of the data. We considered ways to address identified participation barriers and capitalize on opportunities for enhanced engagement of the 1890 universities in competitive programs at NIFA and other relevant federal agencies.

Alton Thompson, ARD executive director, presented a comparative analysis of the perceptions of the 1890 research directors and research scientists on enhancing the participation of the 1890s in NIFA's competitive grants programs, including opportunities, training and support, challenges, barriers and

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Scott and Perdue host 1890 scholarship celebration

On June 12, U.S. Rep. David Scott and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue hosted a "Celebration" of the Scholarships for Students at the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions at USDA headquarters. Rep. Scott brought this legislation to the table, and continued to push until both the House and the Senate approved it.

Section 7117 of the 2018 Farm Bill secured scholarships funds for students at the 19, 1890 land-grant universities through an amendment of Subtitle G of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 and the addition of Section 1446. The amendment authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to each college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of Aug. 30, 1890 (commonly known as the Second Morrill Act) including Tuskegee University, for purpose of awarding scholarships to individuals who have been accepted for admission at such college or university and intend to pursue a career in the food and agricultural sciences.

In addition to Rep. Scott and Sec. Perdue, Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky, Dr. Kent Smith, chair of Council of 1890 Universities, Sen. Kevin Cramer, Rep. Alma Adams, Rep. Al Lawson and Rep. Sanford Bishop, Jr. had the honor of speaking at this celebration commemorating the 1890 Scholarship Program.

Finally, Rep. Bishop, chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, included the 1890's Land-Grant Agriculture Scholarship Fund in the FY 2020 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. In total, this program received \$50 million, which is \$10 million over the request, ensuring success in its inaugural year.



U.S. REP. DAVID SCOTT



SEC. SONNY PERDUE



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El-Dweik develops new food safety biotechnology



New biotechnology developed through a collaboration between researchers at Lincoln University and the University of Missouri-Columbia is aimed at making the food we eat safer. Dr. Majed El-Dweik, interim dean of the College of Agriculture, Environmental and Human Sciences and professor of biological engineering at Lincoln University, and Dr. Mahmoud Almasri, associate professor of electrical engineering, along with a team of student researchers, have received approval and a patent for an invention that reduces the test-

ing time for food contamination.

The High Sensitivity Impedance Sensor received Patent Number 10,274,492 from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This state-of-the-art biotechnology significantly reduces the testing time for contaminants from three days to 14 hours. Food processing companies will also be able to rapidly test their products within hours rather than days before shipping to consumers.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, food-borne illnesses affect one in six people in the United States per year, resulting in approximately 3,000 deaths. Contaminated food cost more than \$15.6 billion in product recalls annually. This new biotechnology will strengthen processors' line of defense against *E. coli*, *Salmonella* and *Listeria* outbreaks.

Giddings wins AAFCS 2019 Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Valerie L. Giddings received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). The DSA is the most prestigious award of the FCS profession and serves as a tribute to outstanding members for their professional achievements and sustained leadership. To receive this award, an individual's nomination must be endorsed by the AAFCS Board of Directors. The award was presented during the "Awards Dinner: Celebrating STARS of AAFCS" on Tuesday, June 25, in St. Louis, MO, during the AAFCS 110th Annual Conference and Expo.

Giddings is chairperson of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, at North Carolina A&T State University and a 31-year member of AAFCS.



Throughout her career, Giddings' peers have commended her as a respected scholar, esteemed leader and a generous mentor. In more than 35 years of teaching and administrative experience, she has held the positions of interim

associate dean of research and chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at A&T, associate vice chancellor for Lifelong Learning at Winston-Salem State University and associate dean and extension specialist in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech



Funding Opportunity—West Africa Plant Health Support

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Office of Capacity Building and Development (OCBD) seeks to strengthen and further the technical assistance to the West Africa region to increase governmental capacity to meet international phytosanitary standards. The project aims to provide teaching to the National Plant Protection Officers (or their delegates) in

strong collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional stakeholders.

This project will enable the ability of ECOWAS countries to meet some of the objectives laid out in the action plan to improve regional phytosanitary systems by supporting international collaboration between countries and between ECOWAS and member countries.

This project enhances the ability for

West Africa to work collectively as a region to harmonize standards, procedures to better facilitate trade by initiating technical working groups among other activities. Further, this project enhances each country's capacity to meet international phytosanitary standards.

The award is not to exceed \$250,000. Application submission deadline: July 26. [Click here to assess the complete NAFO.](#)

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

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.

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.



- 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.

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other inhibitive factors. Mohamed Ahmedna, dean and research director at North Carolina A&T State University, presented findings on a time series analysis using the NIFA funding database to identify collective strengths of the 1890s.

In addition to identifying gap areas where new investments are needed to develop the 1890 collective capacity, Mohamed's analysis focused on providing NIFA leaders with data-driven insights on where funding has created a critical mass of human capacity and/or infrastructure to leverage.

In order to gain the perspectives of other federal agencies relative to engaging the 1890s and other minority serving institutions (MSIs), Jermelina Tupas (NSF) and Alison Gammie (NIH) gave an informative presentation on their agencies' programs on training, support and development and diversity.

As a capstone to these presentations, Chad Womack, senior director of STEM Initiatives and the HBCU Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship at UNCF, gave an interactive lecture on the role of federally funded research at the 1890s in driving entrepreneurship and the innovation economy.

As these data continue to be mined, it is anticipated that this roundtable will yield actionable recommendations that can serve as a foundation for developing new and/or strengthening existing engagement strategies for the ARD, the 1890 land-grant universities, NIFA and other federal agencies. These data will

also assist in determining:

1. How NIFA is doing in terms of outreach/responsiveness to minority serving institutions (MSIs) needs and expectations?
2. What are successful initiatives within NIFA to adopt as best practices?
3. What are some of the barriers and gaps to successful engagement of MSIs?
4. Can available NIFA grant data be used to better understand MSIs and assist them?
5. How are other federal agencies engaging MSIs and can NIFA adopt their best practices?
6. What are the building blocks needed for a coordinated NIFA strategy to increase participation of MSIs?

Answering these questions will be helpful in ensuring impactful programs that leverage resources, build on strengths and address the specific needs of underserved and limited resources communities.

As the summer season is upon us, let me encourage you to spend some time with your families. Our ARD family is strong and vibrant because you have a sound foundation at home. A strong foundation at home requires an investment of 'time.' I have to remind myself of that. I hope you enjoy your family time this summer and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Have a great summer.

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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](#)
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[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



APPOINTMENT



DR. DOZE Y. BUTLER, dean of the School of Agriculture, Fisheries & Human Sciences, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff effective Aug. 1. Butler now serves as a professor and program leader, Apparel Merchandizing and Textiles, in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences at Southern University and A&M College.



ARD CALENDAR

JOINT COPS MEETING

July 19-24, 2019, Park City, UT, Westgate Park City Resort and Spa, 3000 Canyons Resorts Dr., Park City, UT

The theme of 2019 Joint COPS Meeting is "Land-Grant Universities' Colleges of Agriculture: Renewing Our Relevancy through Community Resilience." USDA REE and NIFA representatives have been invited to address this theme. Jim Ogsbury of the Western Governors' Association will discuss the rural initiative they are launching in 2019. Time will also be given to discuss sustainability in teaching and research. Finally, participants will engage in an advocacy strategy discussion with BAA Leadership and Cornerstone Government Affairs. Individual section committees on organization and policy will hold business meetings.

Members of ACOP, ECOP, ESCOP, ICOP, and AHS Executive Committee, should attend the Joint COPS Meeting. The Joint Meeting begins, Monday, July 22 with a reception at 5:30 p.m. The meeting concludes Wednesday, July 24 at Noon.

[Hotel Reservations here.](#) [Registration here.](#)

Monday, July 22 – ARD Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 23 – Joint COPS in the morning and COPS meetings in the afternoon

Wednesday, July 24 – Joint COPS in the mornings and PBD in the afternoon



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.