

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

August 2020 | SPECIAL EDITION | Vol. 11, Issue 9



Message from the Chair
DR. VERNON JONES

This Special Edition of *ARD Updates* commemorates the 130th Anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890, an Act that established the 19 1890 historically black land-grant universities. As I mentioned in my column [in August ARD Updates](#) a few weeks ago (*if you have not already done so, I encourage you to read that piece*), the Second Morrill Act was successfully shepherded through Congress on Aug. 30, 1890 by then U.S. Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont. The Morrill Act of 1890 was intended to respond to the need to provide additional funding for the institutions established through the Morrill Act of 1862. Senator Morrill, however, had been disappointed that

Second Morrill Act increased access for Black students

M. PETER MCPHERSON, *President APLU*
Reprinted from Forbes | August 2020

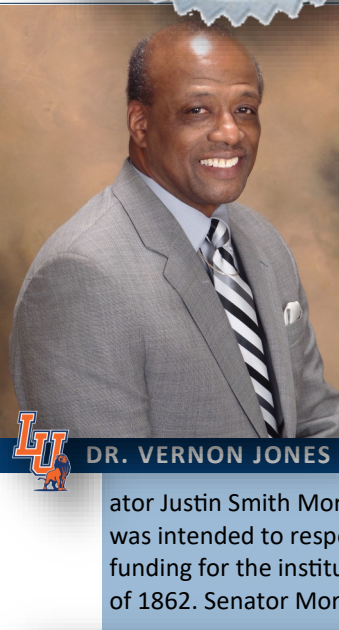
This week marks the 130th Anniversary of the passage of the second Morrill Act, which vastly increased access to higher education for Black students. The law was the product of years of struggle to provide access to educational opportunity for Black students who were denied access in much of the country. Signed into law in 1890, the legislation designated 19 institutions as land-grant universities in states where segregation and discrimination prevented Black students from attending other institutions. The law was an important step in our ongoing national journey to advance equal opportunity and establish racial justice. The past several months have demonstrated the vast progress we have yet to make in these areas. As we look to do so, we have immense resource in the 1890 universities.

Today the 1890 universities collectively serve nearly 100,000 students each year. As land-grant institutions, their mission is to provide life-changing educational opportunity and address the most pressing challenges facing their communities through research and community engagement.

That mission has rarely been more urgent. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted the Black community, as has economic hardship. Already faced with unequal access to higher education nationally, an outsized share of Black students are now facing new barriers to completing a college degree. The 1890 institutions are well-positioned to advance educational opportunity and ensure their students have the support necessary to earn a degree. For these institutions to do so effectively, however, they need bolstered federal support.

Today, the 1890 universities are major sources of opportunity. More than 60 percent of students at the 1890 universities are awarded Pell grants, double the national average, making them major drivers of upward mobility. The universities also play a critical role in educating Black students in disciplines that are important to the national interest.

[\(Click to read the remainder of the article\)](#)



DR. VERNON JONES



M. PETER MCPHERSON

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS



such educational institutions were out of the reach of African Americans, and advanced the belief that higher education should “be accessible to all, but especially to the sons of toil.”

With the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862 and the Morrill Act of 1890, our nation took an important step toward democratizing higher education. Those historic acts of Congress provided access and enhanced opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people, now spanning several generations of our nation’s development, particularly for

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130th Anniversary virtual celebration

The celebration of the 130th Anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890 will culminate with a two-hour [online forum](#) on Monday, Aug. 31 from 1-3 p.m. EDT that will explore the history, challenges, opportunities and accomplishments of the 1890s and the important role we play in the nation’s future.

The forum will also

Sanford Bishop, chair of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee; U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, co-lead sponsor of the 1890 Centers of Excellence, and Harry Williams, president and CEO, Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

The agenda for the two panels is provided below. Some takeaways from this forum, include but are not limited to, the historic underfunding of the 1890s at both the state and federal levels, the need for additional significant investments in the 1890s and the need for expanded partnerships with the private sector and beyond USDA, on the federal side.



130th Anniversary Celebratory Webinar for 1890s Universities

August 31, 2020 | 1:00-3:00pm EDT

Register: <https://bit.ly/2Q1WuFG>

feature remarks from prominent dignitaries such as Scott Hutchins, deputy undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics; Parag Chitnis, interim director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Chavonda Jacobs-Young, administrator, Agricultural Research Service and acting USDA chief scientist; U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, vice-chair of the House Agriculture Committee; David Scott, lead sponsor of the 1890 Scholarship Program and

Panel I: The 1890 Land-grant Universities 130 Years Later: Challenges, Opportunities and Successes

Moderator | M. Peter McPherson, *president, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities*

Panelists | Makola M. Abdullah, *president, Virginia State University*; Heidi M. Anderson, *president, University of Maryland Eastern Shore*, Paul A. Jones, *president, Fort Valley State University*

Panel II: The 1890 Land-grant Universities and the Private Sector: Partnerships Powering Possibilities

Moderator | Fredrick Humphries, Jr., *corporate vice president, Microsoft Corporation*

Panelists | Kellie Adesina, *director, Federal Government Affairs, Bayer Crop Science*; Karis Gutter, *manager, U.S. Government and Industry Affairs, Corteva Agriscience*; Demetha Sanders, *global head, Inclusion & Talent Management, Cargill*; Phillip Thomas-Wallace, *director, U.S. Federal Government Affairs, Walmart*

1890s—Who are we

The 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University, commonly referred to as ‘the 1890s,’ are those institutions established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890. These historically black institutions share the land-grant mission of teaching, research and Extension. The 19 1890s are located in 18 southern and border states.

The ARD unites the research administrators of the 1890 land-grant universities to conduct multi-state research projects and initiatives and to promote collectively the training of young researchers, as well as the research goals of their institutions, in ways that benefit their states, regions and the nation. ARD members serve on state, regional, national and international bodies.

THE PRESIDENTS AND RESEARCH DIRECTORS FOR MEMBER 1890 UNIVERSITIES:

- ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY | Andrew Hugine, Jr. | Lloyd Walker
- ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY | Felecia Nave | Edmund Buckner
- CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY | Jack Thomas | Alton B. Johnson
- DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY | Tony Allen | Dyremple Marsh
- FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY | Larry Robinson | Robert Taylor

- FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY | Paul Jones | Ralph C Noble
- KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY | M. Christopher Brown II | Kirk W. Pomper
- LANGSTON UNIVERSITY | Kent J. Smith Jr. | Wesley Whittaker
- LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Missouri) | Jerald Jones Woolfolk | Majed El-Dweik
- NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY | Harold L. Martin Sr. | Mohamed Ahmedna
- PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY | Ruth J. Simmons | Gerald E. D’Souza
- SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY | James E. Clark | Louis Whitesides
- SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | Ray Belton | Orlando McMeans
- TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | Glenda B. Glover | Chandra Reddy
- TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY | Lily D. McNair | Walter A. Hill
- UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS PINE BLUFF | Laurence Alexander | Doze Y. Butler
- UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE | Heidi M. Anderson | Moses T. Kairo
- VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY | Makola Abdullah | M. Ray McKinnie
- WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY | R. Charles Byers | Jose U. Toledo

ARD leads 1890 research enterprise

The ARD is the official representative body of the agricultural research administrators of the 19 1890 land-grant universities. ARD, chartered in May 1979, is considered one of the five regions of the national land-grant university system's Experiment Station Section (ESS) of the Board on Agriculture Assembly

(BAA) of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The mission of ARD is to “provide visionary and enlightened leadership to member institutions as they continually address issues impacting their ability to provide innovative solutions to the food

and agricultural research challenges facing the state, nation and the world-at-large.”

ARD envisions a region and a world with a safe and plentiful supply of food, fiber and water for all, where natural resources and businesses are managed in ways that are sustainable, serve the public good and provide innovative solutions to global challenges.

ARD's vision, mission, goals and research priorities, listed below, are elaborated more fully in ARD's strategic agenda, [bold Transformations 2025: Strategic Agenda for 1890 Research and Innovation in the Food and Agricultural Sciences.](#)”

This strategic agenda was formally released in April 2019 and is available on the ARD website.

bold Transformations 2025 includes seven 1890 research priorities. They are:

- Empower individuals, families and communities by increasing the knowledge and skill base, and developing behaviors to address the daily quality of life issues.
- Improve health, nutrition and

wellness issues confronting local and worldwide communities.

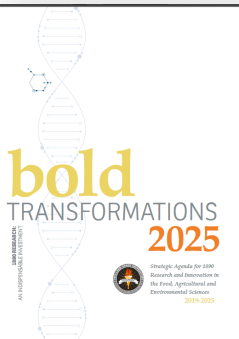
- Ensure local and global food and nutrition security.
- Ensure the viability, sustainability, competitiveness and profitability of small- and medium-scale agriculture.
- Assist rural communities to create prosperity and promote economic development.
- Advance innovations at the nexus of food, energy and water.
- Protect the environment and natural resources.

The next 130 years of the research enterprise of the 1890 land-grant universities begins by implementing our very aggressive strategic agenda. **bold Transformations 2025** is a thoughtful and innovative approach to transforming the research enterprises in the food, agricultural and environmental sciences at the 19 1890 land grant universities into an impactful, laser-focused and high-profile research network – the Association of 1890 Research Directors, Inc.

Finally, as ARD begins the next 130 years of excellence in research,

discovery and innovation, **bold Transformations 2025** reflects the bold and cohesive vision of ARD's preferred future – a future that insures that ARD is a regional association that prepares tomorrow leaders, invest in our communities and meet the global challenges in the food and agricultural sector. In collaboration with the Extension and academic enterprises, the research directors are developing a number of multi-state, integrated initiatives to contribute to solutions to the three interconnecting disparities (health, educational and economic) that are adversely affecting the people and the communities we serve. ARD's passion is to support individuals, families, businesses in rural and urban communities, particularly those who are low income, underserved or vulnerable.

Finally, the ARD faculty and staff at the 19-member universities are committed to carrying out this forward-looking and innovative strategic agenda and are committed to the 1890 mission of providing access and enhancing opportunities for the next 130 years and beyond. ARD's future is promising.





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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



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our citizens who were *not* the sons and daughters of the wealthy class and for the black sons and daughters of toil, respectively.

Today, the 1890 land-grant universities, located in 18 southern and border states, are a thriving network of 19 universities, despite several constraints, with a proud legacy of educating first-generation and economically disadvantaged college students; enhancing the resilience of limited-resource farmers, families, individuals and underserved communities and pioneering the most advanced research, which has immediate applications to formulating solutions for local, regional and global challenges. Together the 1890 universities continue to work to improve the socioeconomic status of the impoverished and help to transform lives at the local, regional, national and global levels. The land-grant philosophy is even more relevant today, given the dynamic complexity of the socioeconomic environment where an integrated, iterative systems approach provides the best likelihood of generating solutions that are responsive to the complex dynamism of our environment

Time and opportunity give me no greater pleasure than to pause during this historic landmark to recognize and celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the Second Morrill Act. I pause in awe to reflect on the genius of the land-grant vision and mission, and to celebrate the 1890 land-grant universities' seminal role in continuing the development of that vision and mission, particularly for persons who are low income, underserved or marginalized. At the same time, the 1890s must continue to look forward to determine how the land-grant mission must keep evolving and expanding to anticipate and meet the challenges of the future, i.e, the challenges and national crises caused or uncovered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 1890s are developing a number of multi-state, integrated initiatives to contribute to solutions to three disparities (health, educational and economic) that are adversely affecting the people and communities we serve. Based on 130 years of successful experiences in spite of limited resources, a significant investment in the 1890s would play a major role in addressing these three interlocking disparities while concurrently benefiting the nation, sustaining the 1890 land-grant universities and advancing the mission of the land-grant system.

During this week, as we recognize and celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890, a number of activities are already underway. During this week, leaders and members of the 1890 university community, policymakers, business and community leaders are using an array of platforms to reflect on and celebrate the legacy of the 1890 land-grant institutions, including on social media using **#Celebrate1890s**. They will highlight innovative programs at the 1890 land-grant universities and their role in developing solutions for local, regional and global challenges. This week of activities will also include points of pride and/or significant accomplishments for each of the 19 1890 land-grant universities. We have a proud past, and a promising future.

This virtual celebration of the 1890 land-grant universities' anniversary will culminate with a **two-hour online forum on Monday, Aug. 31 from 1-3 p.m. EDT** that will explore the history and accomplishments of the 1890s and the important role we play in our nation's future.

Finally, as U.S. Rep. Alma S. Adams (D-NC), Vice Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, said in her remarks recognizing the 130th Anniversary of the Second Morrill Act, -- "**We are 1890 strong!**"

"Happy birthday 1890 land-grant universities!"

ARD CALENDAR

SAVE-THE-DATES

2020 ESS-SAES-ARD FALL MEETING - Sept. 28-30 Virtual Meeting.

2020 APLU ANNUAL MEETING – November 8 – 10 | Virtual Meeting.

2020 PAWC - Dec. 6-8.

