



ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

February 2023, Vol. 14, Issue 2

Message from the Chair
DR. LOUIS WHITESIDES



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As I begin to ponder my comments for the Chair's message for this issue of ARD Updates, I was reminded of the message that Dr. Chandra Reddy, immediate past ARD Chair, penned in February 2021.

"Traced back to 1915, Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted Harvard-trained historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and other prominent African Americans. In 1976, the nation's bicentennial, President Gerald Ford issued the first African American History Month proclamation, calling upon Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Since that time, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrate Black History."

As we begin to celebrate Black History month, let us remember how integral African Americans have been to every chapter in the American narrative. Throughout this month and beyond, I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues in the 1890 land-grant system to advance the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, access and opportunity. For example, we will work to advance the 1890 system's priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill:

- Reauthorization of the Evans-Allen (Research and Education Programs) with the percentage share of Hatch funds increasing from 30% to 40%.
- Authorize tuition and fees for graduate students as an allowable expense for Evans-Allen.
- Reauthorization of the 1890 Extension Program with the percentage share of Smith-Lever increasing from 20% to 40%.
- Reauthorization of the 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program.
- Reauthorization of the 1890 Facilities Improvement Program.
- Reauthorization of the Centers of Excellence.
- Reauthorization of the Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions.

Since Aug. 30, 1890, the 1890 universities have made important contributions to the land-grant system. The food and agricultural sciences in the research, education and Extension programs at the 1890 land-grant universities have made significant contributions to the local, regional and national food

NIFA celebrates Black History Month

February marks Black History Month, a time when our nation celebrates the generations of African Americans whose courage, advocacy and patriotism have enriched our communities and strengthened our country. The nation's historically Black colleges and universities, and, in particular, the 1890 land-grant universities (LGUs), have been the career gateway for many African American scientists, researchers and professors.

The strides that our 1890 LGU partners are making in the classroom, the laboratory and our communities is truly positioning us for success and preparing the next generation of agriculturalists.

This month, through the NIFA newsletter and social media platforms, we will share some of the research impacts being made at 1890 LGUs, student successes and introduce you to several African American Cooperative Extension pioneers.

Visit [the NIFA website](#) to subscribe to the NIFA Update newsletter and follow the agency on Twitter and LinkedIn.



A [Proclamation on National Black History Month.](#)

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Visit us online at www.umes.edu/ard





Congress approved the Evans-Allen Act of 1977 to provide capacity funding for food and agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University (the 1890 Institutions) similar to that provided to the 1862 universities under the Hatch Act of 1887. Research conducted under the Evans-Allen Program has led to hundreds of scientific breakthroughs of benefit to both the unique stakeholders of the 1890 institutions and the nation as a whole. The Evans-Allen Program has been extremely important in allowing the 1890 institutions to attract top-notch scientists to their campuses, conduct high-quality and innovative research and become more fully integrated within the land-grant system.

Below is an example of impacts from the 1890 research program submitted by scientists at Southern University Ag Center.

SU Ag Center researcher studies urban tree interception of UV (A/B) radiation and its genetic consequences



DR. YADONG QI

A study on urban tree interception of UV (A/B) radiation may help to reduce UV radiation in urban environments.

Stratospheric ozone depletion has resulted in a significant increase in solar ultraviolet radiation (UVB, 280-315nm and UVA, 315-400nm) on the earth's surface. With the future uncertainty of ozone recovery and global climate change, there is a critical need for systematic evaluation of UV impacts on trees and forests in urban environments. Urban forests are an integral part of urban green infrastructure, providing enormous ecological benefits to urbanites including the reduction of harmful solar UVB radiation and the protection of the planet's living environment.

A researcher at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension

Center (Southern University Ag Center) is investigating the UV tolerance mechanisms among diverse broadleaf tree species in Southern states to assess their ability to intercept and reduce UV radiation.

By assessing the ability of tree canopy interception of UVA and UVB radiation and quantifying the ecological effect of the canopies, the researcher and her team have quantified leaf optical properties (reflectance, transmittance, and absorbance to UV and Visible radiation) and UV absorbing compounds concentrations for more than 30 urban tree species. The research has also developed seasonal UV (A/B) interception models for single tree canopies using live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) as a model tree species and assessed seasonal UV (A/B) induced DNA damage in 17 southern broadleaf tree species.

This information has implications for modeling UV effects, climate change, and selecting UVB tolerant tree species in urban forestry and forest regeneration.

The researcher and her team plan to continue to investigate the ability of mixed forest canopies (such as those located in parks) on UV (A/B) reduction and assess UV (A/B) induced DNA damage and repair mechanism in a selected group of southern broadleaf tree species to fully understand the forest interaction with UV radiation and their genetic aspect of UV tolerance mechanism.

For more information contact: Yadong Qi, Ph.D., Professor of Urban Forestry and MS Degree Program Leader at yadong_qi@subr.edu, yadong_qi@suaqcenter.com, or 225-771-4408.

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systems. While the 1890s are proud of their collective history, we cannot become complacent. We stand on the shoulders of giants, who carved the path for us to follow. Now we bear the torch for the NEXTGEN of 1890 leaders and scientists, whose paths we help to illuminate. Aligned with the priorities outlined in the January 2023 issue of *ARD Updates*, our thematic push for the next two years will focus on "Build to Last."

Consistent with this singular focus is ARD's collaboration with the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) and the Council of 1890 Administrative Heads (Deans). To wit, last month, these three associations held a six annual joint business meeting. Hosted by South Carolina State University, this in-person gathering of 1890 administrators was interactive, productive, and by design and structure, a forum that allowed those in attendance to engage in critical discussions about pressing issues and other important programs confronting 1890 universities.

Our deliberate dialogues focused on communicating the impact and public value of the institutions; and sustaining the centers of excellence, and expanding the scholarship program.

We also discussed the FY 2023 and FY 2024 appropriations and the advocacy for the funding, infrastructure, marketing and branding, agricultural communications and the multi-state, integrated climate resiliency project focusing on socially disadvantaged farmers, landowners and communities of color. It should be noted that the administrators of NIFA and the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) were also fully engaged in our meeting.

Finally, we look forward to the opportunities and challenges of this year and will continue to push aggressively the 1890 agenda. Dr. Carter G. Woodson understood the importance of this work and telling the African American story. An early leader in the movement to elevate the African Americans experience and accomplishments to its rightful place at the center of national narrative, Dr. Woodson had a vision that continues to drive the mission of 1890 land-grant universities, ARD and other 1890 associations to develop programs that strengthen and support individuals, families, businesses in rural and urban communities, particularly those who are often undervalued and marginalized.



FFAR Seeks Nominations for New Innovator Award

The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) is now accepting nominations for the 2023 [New Innovator in Food & Agriculture Research Award](#). This award program provides up to 10 grants a year to early-career scientists pursuing research that supports FFAR’s [Challenge Areas](#) and promotes global, sustainable agriculture. There is no match requirement for this award opportunity.

The New Innovator Award supports early-career scientists pursuing research that sustainably enhances agricultural production or improves health through food. By investing in scientists and faculty members at the onset of their careers, this award allows them to pursue research without the pressures of securing additional funding.

“FFAR’s New Innovator Awards provide recipients the freedom to focus exclusively on bold, pioneering research,” says [Dr. Sarah Moon Chapotin](#), FFAR executive director. “I believe this investment is critical to advancing early-career scientists who may revolutionize food and agriculture science.”

Applicants are eligible for grants up to \$150,000 per year for a maximum of three years, totaling \$450,000 from FFAR. Thanks to the strength of FFAR’s public-private partnerships, the Foundation garners, on average, \$1.40 for every federal dollar allocated. This additional funding from private-sector partners satisfies FFAR’s matching requirement for this grant program, allowing awardees to

focus on advancing science rather than chasing the next dollar.

FFAR evaluates applications from eligible nominees on their research program proposals as well as a demonstrated commitment to mentoring future generations of agricultural and food scientists. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET. Complete submission guidelines and program deadlines are available on the FFAR [website](#).

Institutions of higher education, nonprofit research institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are encouraged to nominate one applicant who holds a tenure-track or equivalent position and meets the eligibility criteria specified in the [Call for Nominations](#).

FFAR highly encourages applications from Hispanic-serving institutions, 1890s Land-Grant Institutions and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions.

For additional information, please contact: Michelle Olgers, Communications Officer, Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research, molgers@foundationfar.org, 804.304.4200 (cell).



APLU seeks award applicants

APLU’s Food Systems Leadership Award annually recognizes a leader who has made an extraordinary impact on the food system through leadership and service and who exemplifies the core principles established by the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI), including personal, organizational, and food systems leadership. The award also recognizes the leadership, innovation, engagement, and service that APLU promotes through its programs.

This award will be presented at “A Community of Scholars Honoring Excellence” award program at the APLU Annual Meeting in November 2023. The award program honors awardees for regional and national excellence in Food and Agricultural Sciences from colleges and universities across the United States. The meeting is attended by top-level administrators from the 216 university memberships within the APLU and administrators from USDA and FDA. The recipient will be invited to address the current cohort of FSLI Fellows at one of their residential sessions.

The award’s criteria, directions for submitting, and the nomination form is at the [FSLI Website](#). To get a sense of the caliber of person who would be competitive for this award, please see the [Leadership Award page](#). The deadline for submittal is **Feb. 28**.

ESCOP modifies nomination criteria

The Experiment Station Section, chaired by Matt Wilson, associate director of the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station, issues the following call for award nominations.

- **2023 ESS Excellence in Multistate Research Award** – nominations due to Regional Association offices by close of business February 28, 2023.

Click to assess the [formal call for nominations](#), including the steps to apply.

Note that criteria for the excellence in multistate research award has been modified, and while repurposing of previous

nominations is acceptable,



Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP)

nominations will be evaluated according to the most recent guidelines and must include a statement indicating advance/changes made to the previous nomination in the transmission correspondence.

All nominations should also include documents illustrating how the project addresses at least one of the ESCOP Grand Challenges.

Please consider nominees for both of these calls within your institution or region, and distribute accordingly. Also available in the above link is an example of the award-winning nomination from the 2022 national competition.

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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

AFRI announces grant funding

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) - Foundational and Applied Science (FAS) Program provides funding for fundamental and applied research, education, and extension. supports grants in six AFRI priority areas: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products, Animal Health and Production and Animal Products, Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment, Agriculture Systems and Technology and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities

AFRI-FAS invests in agricultural production research, education, and extension projects for more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. Applications that address climate change, nutrition security, expanding markets for producers, indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, and equity for underserved producers are encouraged. Application deadline is **Dec. 29**. For more information, read the full [AFRI-FAS funding opportunity](#).

NEW APPOINTMENTS

DR. DOUGLAS LAVERGNE, dean, College of Agriculture, Environmental and Human Sciences, Lincoln University.

DR. SIMON Y. LIU, administrator of the Agricultural Research Service.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST is seeking a [Training and Education Manager](#) to join the [Farms for a New Generation](#) team and lead the collaborative design and implementation of experiential training programs to support the equitable transfer of farm and ranch land across the country. For more information on the position, please visit farmland.org. If you have specific questions regarding the position or this initiative at AFT, please contact Erica Goodman, Farms for a New Generation Director, at egoodman@farmland.org.

The **FOUNDATION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE RESEARCH** (FFAR) has [two job opportunities](#). Scientific Program Director for [Advanced Animal Systems](#) and [Health-Agriculture Nexus](#). The positions are **fully telework/remote**. More information can be found in the PDFs on the [FFAR website](#).

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Bioinformatics and/or Biostatistics](#)

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Precision Agriculture](#)

[Assistant Professor of Biology: Cell Biology/Immunotoxicology/ Metabolism](#)

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Fashion Merchandising and Textiles Program](#)

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Nutrition and Dietetics](#)

[Assistant Professor and Agribusiness /Resource Economist Specialist](#)

[Chair, Department of Agriculture Food Resources Science](#)

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences

[Research Associate Professor \(Ruminant Nutritional Physiology\) \(myworkdayjobs.com\)](#)

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, College of Agriculture and LIFE SCIENCES, [Dean and Executive Director of Agricultural Programs](#)

CALENDAR

AG. OUTLOOK FORUM | Feb. 23-24, 2023 | [Registration open](#).

2023 JOINT CARET/AHS MEETING | Ag is the Answer: Building Land-Grant Solutions to Global Food, Agriculture and Resource Challenges | March 12-15, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

MANNRS CONFERENCE | April 13-16, 2023 | [Additional Information](#).

HBCU ENGAGE | April 18-19, 2023 | Nashville, TN. [Registration open](#).

NERAOC 2023: [Hitting the High Notes](#) | April 30—May 3 | Nashville, TN

