

"GIVING FARMERS OPTIONS TO PRODUCE IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN PRICE AND DEMAND IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY'S APPROACH TO WORKING WITH SMALLHOLDER FARMERS." — DR. TRACEY

PAYTON, LANGSTON UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURALIST

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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DR. VERNON JONES

Message from the Chair

Dr. Vernon Jones

The events of the past month sharply demonstrate the need for all Americans to recognize and reflect on the discrimination and structural racism in our society that create hardships and block opportunities for many of our fellow citizens, especially African Americans and other people of color. We know that racial injustice is not limited to recent events. One needs to look no

further than the disproportionate devastating impact that COVID-19 is inflicting on the African American community and other communities of color. ARD stands in support of bringing awareness to these interlocking injustices and issues impacting various underserved communities, including those in the 1890 region. These injustices and inequities are mobilizing ARD to push for meaningful and significant change as we are committed to having our land-grant system play a uniting role and being part of the solution.

My heart aches for those who are being affected adversely by these tragedies and for those around us who are being subjected to the humiliation of racial bias – explicit or implicit. It is clear that we need to listen more. We need to listen not only to allow voices to be heard, but to learn and understand. Supporting people of color in agriculture and rural communities is an integral part of our federal 1890 land-grant mission, and we reaffirm our commitment to that mission. We believe strongly in the future of the U.S. food and agriculture system and people of color are a critical part of that future.

As ARD continues to lead our research enterprises through this "new normal," it is imperative that we stand committed to our mission – "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, region, nation and world-at-large." We will also stand resolute to our passion to "support our individuals, families, businesses in rural and urban communities,

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FAMU granted two new patents for muscadine grape plants

Florida A&M University has been granted two new grape patents:

Muscadine grape plant named 'Floriana'

U.S. Patent, PP31,654 – red wine muscadine cultivar; April 14; Ren, Z., Lu., J., and V. Tsolova

'Floriana' is a new muscadine cultivar bred for red wine grape industries in Florida and the southeastern U.S., at the Center for Viticulture & Small Fruit Research, the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS), Florida A&M University



(FAMU). 'Floriana' is a self-fertile wine grape vine that is highly productive, resistant to Pierce's disease (PD) and low-fruit ripening rot (ripe rot, and bitter rot), and is able to produce fine red wines. The most outstanding characteristics of 'Floriana' are a high-quality wine with rich and stable red color and consistent high yield.

Muscadine grape plant named 'Florida Onyx'

U.S. Patent, PP31,407 - large berry red fresh fruit muscadine cultivar; Jan. 18; Ren, Z., Lu., J., and V. Tsolova

'Florida Onyx' is a new muscadine cultivar bred for the fresh fruit grape industry in Florida and the southeastern U.S. at the Center for Viticulture & Small Fruit Research, at CAFS at FAMU. 'Onyx' is a pistillate (female) grape vine that is highly productive, resistant to Pierce's disease (PD), low-fruit ripening rot (ripe rot, and bitter rot) and relatively low wet scar. The most outstanding characteristics of 'Florida Onyx' are a very large deep black-red colored berry with an extremely pleasant fruit flavor.

[Contact information for licensing and planting stock.](#)



NIFA announces new appointments



Pictured, left to right, Faith Peppers, Drenda Williams, Matt Faulkner and Dr. Muthusamy Manoharan

FAITH PEPPERS has been selected for the position of NIFA communications director. She joins NIFA from the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, where she served as the director of Public Affairs since 2011 and coordinated the college's public affairs programs including issues management, legislative communication, crisis communication and strategic messaging; advised the college's administration and lead strategic communication initiatives; and served as college spokesperson and liaison to UGA Public Affairs and external organizations. *(Announced on June 10)*

DRENDA WILLIAMS has been selected for the position of director of the Equal Opportunity Staff and will serve as the NIFA Civil Rights director. She joins NIFA from NRCS, where during her tenure, she was acting state conservationist and assistant state conservationist for Management and Strategy in Texas from September 2012 through May 2020. *(Announced on May 13)*

MATT FAULKNER has been selected for the position of deputy director, Office of Grants and Financial Management. He joins NIFA from USDA's Rural Development

mission area where he was the director of Enterprise Risk Management and director of the Continuous Process Improvement Office. Prior to this, he worked at the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, USDA as the director of the Credit, Travel and Grants Policy Division. *(Announced April 15)*

DR. MUTHUSAMY MANOHARAN has been selected for the national program leader for 1890 programs in the Division of Community and Education (DOCE), Institute of Youth, Family and Community (IYFC). In his new role, Dr. Manoharan will provide programmatic leadership and management of NIFA's 1890 programs portfolio.

Dr. Manoharan joins NIFA from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) where he served as a tenured faculty (professor/associate professor/assistant professor) for 18 years in the department of agriculture. He also served in various administrative roles at UAPB, including the positions of interim associate vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs and interim dean/director in the School of Agriculture, Fisheries & Human Sciences. *(Announced on June 8)*.

Electronic Resources

Capacity Grantee Resources: [This website](#) contains resources that capacity grantees can use in managing their grants, including detailed information and resources on the equipment prior approval requirement for capacity grants.

[NIFA's Updated Grant Management FAQs.](#) This resource will be useful for many post-award actions, such as no-cost extensions, PD/Co-PD/AOR changes, etc.

[Cornerstone Government Affairs and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities \(APLU\)](#) created this website to represent the interests of the land-grant colleges of agriculture and natural resources, as guided by the Board of Agriculture Assembly (BAA).

[ESCOPE Website](#) | [ECOP Website](#)



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particularly those who are low income, underserved or marginalized.”

As we look ahead, ARD and the other four ESCOP regional research associations are committed to a long-term diversity and inclusion agenda for the Experiment Station Section (ESS) with goals, metrics, timelines, implementation activities and continuity of practice. As a standing committee of ESS, the Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) engages in topics of diversity in research leadership across the land-grant university system, provides ideas and actions for consideration and supplements institutional, regional and national diversity and inclusion efforts. Ali Fares, Prairie View A&M University, chairs this important committee and is supported by Richard Rhodes, executive director for the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA). ARD, as part of ESCOP, will continue to support and amplify the work of the DCC to build a more diverse and inclusive research enterprise in the land-grant system.

As we continue to adjust to this “new normal,” I sincerely thank you for participating in and being fully engaged in ARD’s virtual summer business meeting held jointly with AEA.

Although our agenda was quite ambitious, let me focus briefly on two important programs authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill – the Centers of Excellence and the Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions.

Briefly, the 2018 Farm Bill authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize not less than three centers of excellence, each led by an 1890 institution. AEA, ARD and the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture supported the implementation

of all six centers identified in the 2018 Farm Bill. However, because the FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations Bill preceded that of the 2018 Farm Bill, the USDA General Counsel informed the 1890 community that the \$5 million allocation can only be used for the legislatively authorized centers at the time when the Appropriations Bill was passed (*i.e., the three centers of excellence that were authorized in 2015*). The three centers are (1) Virtual Center to Motivate and Educate for Achievement (MEA); (2) Center for International Engagement and Development (CEIED) and (3) Center for Innovative and Sustainable Small Farms, Ranches and Landowners (CISFRL).

Using a competitive process developed by NIFA, North Carolina A&T State University was selected to host the MEA Center; the University of Maryland Eastern Shore was selected to host the CEIED and Tuskegee University was selected to host the CISFRL. The intent of the 1890 COEs is to increase profitability and rural prosperity in underserved farming communities; address critical needs for enhanced international training and development; and increase diversity in the science, technology, engineering, **agriculture** and mathematics (STEAM) pipeline.

The anticipated amount available for grants in FY 2020 is approximately \$4.8 million. The center directors, co-investigators and staff are working seamlessly with the 1890

Universities Foundation, an executive committee comprising representatives of participating 1890 universities and a governing board with representation from each of the 19 universities. External technical advisory boards will also support these centers.

As envisioned, these centers will create a dynamic, collaborative partnership of the 1890 institutions and USDA. The partnership will leverage the collective capacity of the partner institutions and their domestic and international partners to develop and deliver interdisciplinary, multistate and integrated research, education and engagement initiatives to help address critical challenges in the food system.

The 1890 COEs will solicit proposals from the 1890 institutions through a fair and transparent competitive process. All projects funded by the centers must address the identified objectives and priorities. The solicitations will encourage multidisciplinary and multi-institutional projects. Presently, RFAs have been developed in selected topics related to the thematic/thrust areas of each center. This will allow for broad-based competitive participation by all of the 1890 universities to collectively achieve each center’s mission.

As championed by U.S. Rep. David Scott (D-GA) and authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill passed by Congress in December 2018, funds for the Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions have been released to all of the 1890 institutions. As authorized, the purpose of this significant scholarship program is to “provide scholarships to support recruiting, engaging, retaining,

mentoring and training of undergraduate students at the 1890 land-grant institutions, resulting in baccalaureate degrees in the food and agricultural sciences and related fields.”

The scholarships are intended to encourage outstanding students at 1890 institutions to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in the food and agricultural sciences and related fields that would lead to a highly skilled food and agricultural systems workforce. As such, the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture has appointed project directors to individually and collectively implement this significant investment in the 1890 system. The project directors are meeting virtually on a regular basis to discuss scholarship management and implementation, recruitment and retention strategies, methods of awarding scholarships, promising and best practices, value-added professional development; documentation, evaluation and reporting metrics and engaging students during the summer.

Finally, as the summer season is upon us, let me encourage you to spend some quality 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.’ Take advantage of being ‘sheltered-in’ to enjoy your family time while concurrently working diligently to fulfill your duties and responsibilities as research directors and deans.

Continue to be healthy, safe and virus-free, and don’t forget to exercise.

See you soon on Zoom®.

“It is clear that we need to listen more. We need to listen not only to allow voices to be heard, but to learn and understand.”

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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



JOB OPPORTUNITIES



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | Agricultural Research & Extension Center | Vice Chancellor of Research

The vice chancellor for research is responsible for assisting the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SUAREC) chancellor-dean in promoting and expanding the research mission of the Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) by increasing and supporting scholarly activities of faculty and students and developing strategic partnerships with other institutions of higher education, government, and industry, while promoting shared responsibility, compliance and research integrity. Specifically, the vice chancellor for research assists faculty members in their research endeavors, encourages interdisciplinary activities across the campus and provides support for new programs and initiatives. In addition, the vice chancellor for research will work with Southern University System, state and federal officials to ensure that the research being conducted is done so in a compliant and responsible manner.

Additional Information: [Position Vacancy Announcements](#)

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY | Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center - Research Coordinator

The research coordinator will be responsible for conducting and coordinating research at Alcorn State University's Policy Center impacting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) and socially disadvantaged communities. [Additional Information](#)

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY | Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center – Agriculture Policy

The policy analyst will review agricultural policies and regulations and the field implementation of the policies and regulations to determine the impact on socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) and socially disadvantaged communities and for making recommendations for changes in agricultural policies to advance the success of SDFR and socially disadvantaged communities.

Additional Information: Please contact the SDFR Policy Center at sdfinfo@alcorn.edu or (601) 877-6535

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF | School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences (SAFHS) | Extension Administrator (Assistant Dean for Extension/ Outreach)

The Extension Administrator reports directly to the Dean/Director of the School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences. The Extension Administrator supports the Dean/Director in the administration, management and operation of Cooperative Extension work (specifically in the areas of planning, implementation and evaluation of Extension programs.) [Additional information.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF | Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries | Research Technician (Fisheries, Darter Project)

The Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is seeking a full-time hourly research technician to aid graduate students in stream surveys within the Ouachita Mountain ecoregion of Arkansas. The selected individual will gain experience conducting stream surveys using a variety of sampling gears and develop fish identification skills. Opportunities for conducting independent research will be available. [Additional information.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF | School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences (SAFHS) - Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries | Laboratory Technician

The extra help person will work approximately 40 hours/week. The applicant will be responsible for duties including, but not limited to, water quality monitoring, fish maintenance, fish sampling, standard physio-biochemical analysis (including routine metabolism, energy store) and molecular assay. Applicant should be able to adjust rapidly to shifting priorities and variable workloads. [Additional information.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE | School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences Department of Agriculture Food and Resources Sciences; Assistant Professor and Agribusiness/ Resource Economics Specialist

This a 12-month tenure track position focused on Extension and applied research. Tenure will accrue in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Sciences.

[Read full description.](#) **To Apply:** Please contact Dr. Stephan L. Tubene, sltubene@umes.edu; 410.651.7577; **Closing Date:** Open (May 2020) until filled

ARD CALENDAR



SAVE-THE-DATES

2020 JOINT COPS MEETING – July 20 – 23 | Virtual Meeting.

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

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