

# ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

March 2022, Vol. 13, Issue 3



## Message from the Chair

Dr. Chandra Reddy

Dear Friends and Colleagues,  
I will see you in Atlanta in less than three weeks for the for the 20th Biennial Research Symposium.

The theme of this year's meeting is "The 1890 Research and Innovation Agenda: Pathways to Build Back Better." The first ARD symposium occurred in 1976 to commemorate the U.S. Bicentennial and to showcase the plethora of accomplishments of research scientists

and students at the 1890 land-grant institutions. The 1890 symposia's goal is to provide a forum for interactions, share knowledge, expand partnerships through networks and showcase the talents and achievements of the 1890 community. As such, ARD's 20th Biennial Research Symposium will provide opportunities for scientists and students to present research papers and posters that highlight 1890 contributions in solving today's challenges in food, agriculture and the environment in the 1890 region and beyond.

At this year's symposium, Terry Cosby, chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will give the second Evans-Allen Memorial Lecture. Briefly, the First Morrill Act (1862) established a land-grant university in every state and the Second Morrill Act (1890) extended land-grant status to historically black public universities in southern and border states where, due to segregation, African American students were barred from attending the 1862 land-grant universities. The Evans-Allen Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-113) provided capacity funds for food and agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant institutions and Tuskegee University in a manner similar to that provided to the 1862 universities under the Hatch Act of 1887. Representative Frank Evans of Colorado and Senator James Allen of Alabama originally sponsored the legislation (Evans-Allen) to provide funds for food and agricultural research programs at the 1890s.

Fortunately for us, current COVID-19 trends are encouraging and hopefully will continue to get

See Reddy on Page 6

## NIFA hosts grant workshop

Grant opportunities encourage innovation and assist with research and programs that positively impact communities. In 2021, NIFA administered 16 programs specifically for minority-serving institutions with over \$250 million in funding. This year, NIFA continues to provide every partner the best opportunity for funding that diversifies scientific knowledge and helps communities across the United States.

The keys to grant writing success are advanced planning and being well-informed. In recent workshops, NIFA has helped hundreds of attendees by offering common tips in advance to help submitters wow reviewers and reveal common mistakes to avoid distractions.

Successful proposals should excite reviewers and be easy to read and understand. Proposal writers should support ideas with a thorough literature review so that the proposal has a clear rationale and objectives that fit program priorities. NIFA priorities for the year ahead include:

- Climate Change and Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry
- Advancing Racial Justice, Equity, and Opportunity
- Creating More and Better Market Opportunities
- Tackling Food and Nutrition Security

Great ideas that support these priorities, when well-articulated, increase the chances of successfully getting projects funded. Great ideas also need a framework to improve funding opportunities. Here are just a few tips covered in recent workshops presented by Mark Mirando, National Science Liaison, AFRI Science Coordinator:

- Find the right program for you and your idea.
- Become a "student" of the RFA.
- Develop a timeline for proposal preparation.
- Understand the review process and reviewers.

Join NIFA staff for the Grant Writing Essentials workshop at the upcoming ARD conference in April to hear more about these recommendations. Visit the NIFA booth with questions about upcoming priorities and more tips on proposal funding.





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 an impact from the 1890 research program submitted by scientists at Tennessee State University.

## Biofumigation helps manage Phytophthora Root Rot Disease

The production and sale of woody ornamental crops is a big industry in the U.S., exceeding \$5.1 billion in 2016. Nursery producers are vulnerable to losses due to root and crown rot diseases caused by soilborne pathogens. In 2015 these losses were estimated to be approximately 5% of the farm gate value for field and container nursery production. One of these soilborne pathogens, *Phytophthora nicotianae*, can infect 255 genera in 90 families, accounts for billions of dollars in crop losses annually worldwide and is a leading cause of losses in commercial nursery production. The loss of methyl bromide as a soil fumigant prompted the search for other ways to control this disease. Nursery producers and university

representatives have determined root and crown rots resulting from pathogens like *Phytophthora* spp. as their most important concern in nursery production.

To develop new options for controlling this disease, Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel and her colleagues assessed the use of cover crops in the Brassicaceae family to control *Phytophthora nicotianae* in boxwood production. Specific cover crops studied include arugula ‘Astro,’ brown mustard ‘Kodiak,’ mighty mustard ‘Pacific Gold,’ green mustard ‘Amara,’ rape ‘Dwarf Essex,’ turnip ‘Purple Top Forage,’ and yellow mustard ‘White Gold.’

Over two years, they found that most of the cover crops, in conjunction with soil solarization, an environmentally friendly process of using solar energy to kill soil pathogens by covering the soil to increase the soil temperature, were effective in controlling *Phytophthora* root rot in boxwoods. Once the cover crops flowered, they were chopped and incorporated into the soil to test the potential for disease control, then covered with a polyethylene film for 30 days. After the 30 days, boxwoods were planted into the plots and monitored for three months for disease occurrence, incidence, phytotoxicity and defoliation. Root systems were assessed for disease severity.

Almost all treatments significantly reduced *Phytophthora* root rot disease severity by as much as 50 % compared to the controls.

Farmers have been slow to adopt sustainable biofumigation strategies because of concerns over efficacy, economic cost and compatibility with their production practices. The research’s results will help promote the adoption of biofumigants by documenting their effects in multiple nursery systems and demonstrating that using cover crops as a biofumigant, in combination with solarization, can be an accepted, sustainable field-grown nursery production system for nurse-

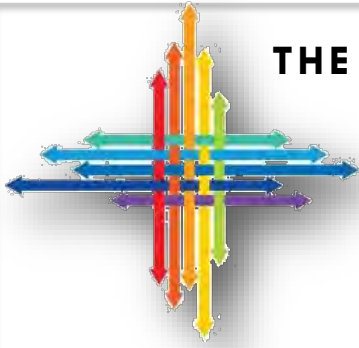
ry growers in the Southern region.

For more information, contact: Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel (931) 815-5143 or . The project was supported by the Evans-Allen Program of the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).



Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel works in her Tennessee State University lab.





# THE 1890 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA: PATHWAYS TO BUILD BACK BETTER

April 2 – 5, 2022 | [Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA](#)

Late Registration – Feb. 26 – March 25, 2022—\$625  
On-Site Registration - \$650

## REGISTRATION

Pay by purchase order, check or credit card. No funds (Note: Credit card users need to pay an additional fee to cover bank charges). [Register here.](#)

## HOTEL REGISTRATION

[Atlanta Marriott Marquis Reservations](#)

[Hotel Guest Room Rates:](#)

Single and Double Occupancy: \$194

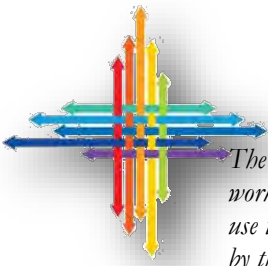
Tax and Surcharges: Hotel rates are confirmed in 2022 and are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 16.9% plus a \$5.00 per night State of Georgia Hotel Motel fee) in effect at the time of check in. While the March 10 deadline to book has passed, you may check to see if rooms are available and at the symposium rate.

## COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

To ensure the safety of all attendees, ARD will follow all relevant protocols and CDC guidelines provided by the [Georgia Department of Health](#). These protocols are posted prominently on the [symposium website](#). ARD has partnered with [Sharemy Health](#), a HIPAA-compliant platform that allows registrants to comply with the symposium's health and safety protocols to help ensure the safety and well-being of all attendees.



For additional information contact:  
[Dr. Alton Thompson](#), ARD Executive Director,  
(336) 285-2955 or  
[Dr. Orlando McMeans](#) (225) 771-4310.



## SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

*The ARD Research Symposium aims to provide a forum for interactions, sharing knowledge, expanding partnerships through networking, and showcasing the talents and achievements of the 1890 community. Below is a schedule of programs and events you can use to plan your agenda. To ensure the safety of all attendees, ARD will follow all relevant protocols and CDC guidelines provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health. We are working closely with the Atlanta Marriott Marquis to comply with their protocols to ensure all attendees have the added confidence of industry-leading hygiene practices. [View COVIDS-19 policy here.](#)*

### Saturday, April 2

Event	Time	Room Location
Scheduled Committee Meetings	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	L508
Registration	1-6 p.m.	Atrium Registration Booth 3
Technology Office (uploads only, if necessary)	1:30-6 p.m.	A702
Poster set up for students only	2-7 p.m.	Atrium Salon A
Exhibitor set up	2-7 p.m.	Atrium Salon A Atrium Foyer
Judges and Moderators' Meeting	6-8 p.m.	L508
Deans Meeting with MANRRS	8-10 p.m.	L503

### Monday, April 4

Event	Time	Room Location
Continental Breakfast	7 -8:15 a.m.	Atrium Salons BC
Registration	7 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Atrium Registration Booth 3
Opening Session	8:30 -10 a.m.	Atrium Salons BC
Morning Break	10-10:30 a.m.	Atrium Foyer
Visits with Exhibitors	10-10:30 a.m.	Atrium Salon A Atrium Foyer
Posters with Authors	10-11:30 a.m.	Atrium Salon A
Student Posters to be removed Faculty Posters to be put up	11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Atrium Salon A
Student Awards Luncheon	Noon – 1:45 p.m.	Atrium Salons BC
Visits with Exhibitors	2-6 p.m.	Atrium Salon A
Faculty Oral Presentations	2-6 p.m.	A703, A704, A705, A706, A707, A708, L401, L402, L405&406, L504&505, L506&507, L508  Atrium A
Faculty Poster Presentations		
Afternoon Break	3-3:30 p.m.	Atrium Foyer
Student Workshop: Life After College “Where do we go from here & how do we get there?”	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Atrium Salons BC
Dinner on your Own		
Southern SARE Dinner	6-8 p.m.	L503
Student Activity (all are welcome)	8-11 p.m.	TBA

See Symposium Agenda on Page 5

## SYMPOSIUM AGENDA . . . CONT.

### Tuesday, April 5

Event	Time	Room Location
Continental Breakfast	7-8:15 a.m.	Atrium Salons BC
Registration	7-11 a.m.	Atrium Registration Booth 3
Plenary Session	8:30-10:30 a.m.	Atrium Salon BC
Morning Break	10:30-11 a.m.	Atrium Foyer
Visit with Exhibitors	10:30 a.m. - Noon	Atrium Salon A Atrium Foyer
Posters with Authors	10:30 a.m. - Noon	Atrium Salon A
Student Workshop: Leadership & Professional Development (Student ONLY Working Lunch)	11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Atrium Salons BC
Lunch on your Own		
Exhibit and Poster Teardown	Noon – 3 p.m.	Atrium Salon A Atrium Foyer
Special Sessions		
Special Session 1 NIFA: Navigating the Landscape	1:30-3 p.m.	A704
Special Session 2 Extension: Climate Change	1:30-3 p.m.	A707
Special Session 3 NRCS	1:30-3 p.m.	L405&406
Special Session 4 Southern University Medical Marijuana Program	1:30-3 p.m.	A706
Special Session 5 Microsoft: Academic Research & the Cloud, Accelerating Innovations with Microsoft with Microsoft Azure	1:30-5 p.m.	A703
Special Session 6 Lincoln: Emerging Technologies	1:30-5 p.m.	A705
Special Session 7 SARE: Sustainable Meat Production	1:30-5 p.m.	A708
Special Session 8 IPM	1:30-5 p.m.	L504&505
Special Session 9 Global Food Security	1:30-5 p.m.	L506&507
Special Session 10 Lincoln: Industrial Hemp Institute	1:30-5 p.m.	L401
Special Session 11 UMES: Food Safety	1:30-5 p.m.	L508
Special Session 12 Research Partnership Opportunities	1:30-5 p.m.	L402
Special Session 13 NIFA: Grant Writing Tips	3:30-5 p.m.	A704
Special Session 14 Creating a Toolkit: Heirs Property	3:30-5 p.m.	A707
Special Session 15 COE: MEA/SSWD	3:30-5 p.m.	A706
Morrison-Evans & B.D. Mayberry Awards Banquet	7-10 p.m.	Atrium Salons BC

### Wednesday, April 6

No Events Scheduled

Travel Day

# 1890 Communicators serve on impact writing team

Two 1890 land-grant university agriculture communication professionals were selected to serve on the 14-person [National Impact Database](#) (NIDB) writing and editing team this year. Virginia State University's director of Marketing and Communications, Michelle Olgers, and Fort Valley State University's Research Communications specialist, Latasha Ford, spent two days in New Orleans February 11-12 with other team members, reviewing all 380 2021 impacts submitted by U.S. LGUs.

Together, they developed web stories, summary fact sheets, and a forthcoming impacts video to demonstrate the value and collective impact of the nation's LGU mission areas of Cooperative Extension and food and agricultural research. The team's stories, summaries and the video are used daily by [USDA-NIFA](#) when reporting to Congress and the USDA Office of Management and Budget. They also use them, as does the [Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities](#) (APLU), the [1890 Universities Foundation](#), and other organizations and government entities, to help share LGU impacts with the media, on social media and with important stakeholders on state and federal levels. Additionally, Extension and research faculty rely on this information to learn of the

impacts their peers are making in other states to discover potential collaborations that could lead to greater, multistate impacts.

Communication professionals on the NIDB writing team represented: Colorado State University, Fort Valley State University, LSU AgCenter, Michigan State University, Oregon State University, Purdue, the University of California, the University of Connecticut, the University of Maryland, the University of Wyoming and Virginia State University. The NIDB project is a joint initiative of APLU's [ECOP](#) and [ESCOP](#) committees and USDA-NIFA.



Virginia State's Michelle Olgers and Fort Valley's Latasha Ford work with national team.



**USDA'S ARD** is now accepting applications for the 2022 [1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program](#) (1890 FRSP). This program is an opportunity to conduct a research sabbatical at an [ARS location](#) and is open to research- and tenure-track 1890 land-grant university faculty who have been employed for a minimum of three years at their current institution. Sabbaticals are six to 12 months and may be completed in consecutive months or in two parts (e.g., summer sabbaticals). Sabbaticals are funded at up to \$125,000 to support expenses such as salary, housing, travel and research costs. Sabbaticals awarded in the fiscal year 2022 program may begin as early as Sept. 1.

To apply, 1890 LGU faculty and ARS researchers must submit a single, jointly developed proposal to be submitted internally through ARS. Applications are due April 4.

## Reddy ... from page 1

better by the time we meet in Atlanta. However, we have put together a very robust safety plan for everyone's sake. ARD formed a Health and Safety Committee, chaired by Dr. Shirley Evers-Manly, dean of the School of Nursing, Alcorn State University, to ensure the health and safety of all participants. All participants are asked to follow all relevant protocols and CDC guidelines provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health. We are also working closely with the Atlanta Marriott Marquis to comply with their protocols to ensure participants have the added confidence of industry-leading hygiene practices. Our protocols are posted on the [symposium website](#).

A special thanks go to our major sponsors: the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Microsoft, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (Southern SARE), Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center, the United States Forest Service and Syngenta Global. I would also like to thank the symposium steering committee, chaired by Dr. Orlando McMeans, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, for his consummate leadership in planning and making this symposium a reality and to the tremendous support provided by our Executive Director, Dr. Alton Thompson.

I look forward to thought-provoking discussions that will create a platform for continued innovative research resulting in solutions to the new and grand challenges in the food and agricultural system. I also look forward to the collegial interaction and renewing of old acquaintances. See you all soon.

## ARD OFFICERS

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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](mailto:athompson1@ncat.edu)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS



### 1890 EXTENSION IMPACTS

The Association of Extension Administrators recently released the 2020/2021 Impact document. The document, prepared by the Extension Marketing & Communications Committee, will be available on the AEA website.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### ASSOCIATE DEAN AND DIRECTOR, VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) have launched a national search for a new Associate Dean and Director of VCE. We seek an energetic leader, strategic thinker, relationship builder, and gifted communicator who will strengthen the role of VCE and the college throughout the university and the communities it serves. Interested individuals should visit the search webpage at <https://www.cals.vt.edu/about/administration/associate-dean-search.html>. Direct questions to Dr. Tom Thompson, associate dean and director of CALS Global, at [tthomps@vt.edu](mailto:tthomps@vt.edu).

## CALENDAR

2022 National Extension and Research  
Administrative Officers Conference



**2022 LAND-GRANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS CONFERENCE** - The annual National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC) will be held from **April 10-13** in St. Louis, MO. Administrators and program directors responsible for USDA-NIFA land-grant programs, including the 1994 land-grants, Extension, equity, research and endowment programs, are urged to learn more and **register here by April 4**. The event provides a venue for professional development, information sharing and networking among Cooperative Extension administrators, state Agricultural Experiment Stations and USDA-NIFA staff. Thank you Gina Eubanks, Louisiana State University, for serving on the NERAOC coordinating committee representing the [Cooperative Extension Section](#) and

**SOUTHERN REGION MINI LAND-GRANT MEETING** | May 16 – 19, 2022 | College Station, Texas

**2022 JOINT COMMITTEES ON ORGANIZATION AND POLICY (COPS) SUMMER MEETING** | July 19 – 21, 2022 | Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC

**ARD SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING** | August 1, 2022 | Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld

**2022 AEA SYSTEM-WIDE EXTENSION CONFERENCE** | July 30 – Aug. 4 | Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld

**JOINT ESS/CES-NEDA MEETING** | Sept. 25-28 | The Marriott Baltimore Waterfront in Baltimore, MD. [Click for details.](#)

