

ARD UPdates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

November 2020, Vol. 11, Issue 12



DR. CHANDRA REDDY

Message from the Chair

Dr. Chandra Reddy

Dear friends and colleagues,
I am grateful to have the opportunity and pleasure to serve as ARD Chair for the next two years. I am both humbled and excited to have been elected by you at our recent annual meeting. I thank you for the confidence and trust that you have placed in me to provide leadership to this esteemed group of research directors.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as ARD Chair and I look forward to working with each of you to achieve ARD's vision, mission and goals. I know all of you are professionals in your own right and I will continue our collaborative and forward-thinking approach to issues. We've worked hard to build an excellent research organization, and the work will continue. I'm committed to improving and elevating ARD to the best regional research association in the nation.

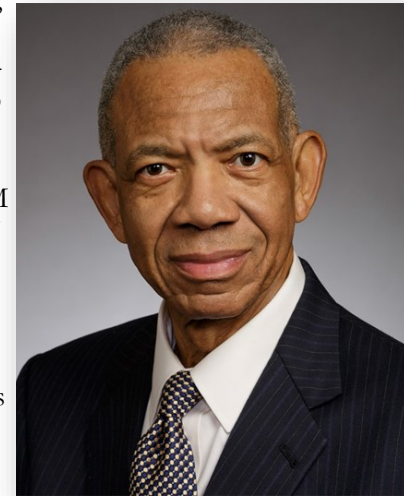
As Chair, I will be guided primarily by our strategic agenda, "bold Transformation 2025: Strategic Agenda for 1890 Research and Innovation in the Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences," and by listening actively to what you want our institutions and ARD to accomplish. Among our challenge and priority areas, we need to continue to: (1) be persistent in seeking full appropriations for the 1890 land-grant system priorities and programs authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill (i.e., research and Extension capacity programs; capacity building grants programs; facilities grant programs; centers of excellence; and scholarships for students at 1890 institutions); (2) begin to develop priorities for 2023 Farm Bill; (3) support COVID-19 related supplemental funding for food and agricultural research relief and recovery; (4) support supplemental funding for critical infrastructure for colleges of agriculture at land-grant universities; (5) improve collaboration across the three mission areas within the 1890 system and with the 1862 and 1994 land-grant institutions; and (6) strengthen partnership and engagement efforts with NIFA, including

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Parks receives ESS Excellence in Leadership Award

DR. ALFRED L. PARKS received the ESS National Excellence in Leadership Award from ARD Region at the 2020 APLU Virtual Annual meeting.

Park currently serves as the interim executive associate director of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences at Prairie View A&M University, Texas. He is enjoying a stellar career in progressive higher education administration, leadership and management. He served as department head of Agricultural Economics at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) from 1977-1987; head of the Department of Agricultural Sciences at PVAMU from 1989-1993, and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences and Research Director of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center at PVAMU from 1994-2009.



DR. ALFRED L. PARKS

During his administrative tenure, he was able to accomplish a number of significant achievements in the College of Agriculture. He was responsible for the establishment of a summer apprentice program for high school students entitled the Research Apprentice Program (RAP); he provided leadership in establishing the World Food Distribution Training Center of Excellence (WFDTC), a certification program whereby students can pursue a certification in World Food Distribution Management; he played a major role in the establishment of a number of International Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in a number of countries such as Jamaica, Costa Rica, Mexico, Cameroon and Ghana. He played a major role in the establishment of the Ethiopian Sheep and Goat Products Improvement Pro-

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UMES's Allen receives NRCS grant

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore received a major boost to its Chesapeake Center for Water Quality from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Center received nearly a half-million dollar grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to "enhance knowledge regarding use of standard metrics to assess soil health," particularly for agricultural land management.



ARTHUR ALLEN, PH.D.

"As interest in soil health management continues to increase, so does the need for consistent, replicable, scientifically sound indicators and associated data that will allow for the assessment of how agricultural management practices are affecting soil health over time," said **DR. ARTHUR ALLEN**,

principal investigator for the grant and director of UMES' Chesapeake Center for Water Quality.

The grant, Allen said, will fund a project titled, "Dynamic Soil Properties for Soil Health Assessment," over the next two years to collaborate with the NRCS and Alabama A&M University researchers. They will assess the accuracy, repeatability and usefulness of standard soil health met-

rics on Maryland's Eastern Shore and areas in Northern Alabama for three benchmark soils and dominant land management systems.

"Any robust set of indicators and associated data collection, sometimes referred to as a "soil health monitoring network," must also provide usefulness and compatibility across multiple regions, soils and management systems," Allen said. Research through the new agreement will build on the NRCS' existing national soils database, including water sampling design, field sampling protocols and linking the research to soil maps.

Allen's colleagues, Drs. Fawzy Hashem and Amy Collick, will help oversee the project at UMES where they will identify sampling sites, coordinate accurate field sampling and supervise various laboratory analyses. The grant provides a stipend for a graduate and undergraduate students' involvement in the project. Collick will also compile, organize and manage datasets for the project that will be shared with the NRCS' soil survey program's laboratory.

"Dr. Allen's water quality research team is to be commended for their efforts and for building a relationship with the USDA's NRCS to continue these critical research activities," said Dr. Moses T. Kairo, dean of UMES' School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences. "The information and knowledge that will come out of the project will be of value to the NRCS and the holistic soil science and agricultural communities."

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PROJECT CAFÉ (Collaboratively Achieving Functional Excellence). I am excited about the work before us and I look forward to working with each of you as we commit to move ARD forward in very intentional and strategic ways.

Although we are in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic together with the associated disparities, inequities and injustices that continue to be revealed, I want to wish each of you a safe and joyous Thanksgiving celebration. Thanksgiving is a holiday shared by all Americans, regardless of religious faith or background, and allows us to focus on our blessings and the freedoms we enjoy. We all have much to be thankful for. We live in a country where freedom, both personal and academic, is guaranteed by our Constitution and reinforced in our daily lives. We are also a part of a land-grant system where diversity and inclusion are celebrated, not feared. To this end, I'm thankful that Moses T. Kairo, ESCOP Chair and past ARD Chair, has identified "diversity, equity and inclusion as an essential component of all our programs."

Finally, I would be remissed not to acknowledge the authentic, outstanding and exemplary leadership of Vernon Jones (Langston University) for the past two years. Vernon was goal oriented, quick in analysis of many situations and he was an invaluable advocate for ARD. He had natural abilities as a leader

and he was willing to listen to others and understand other points of view. Vernon is a poet, self-motivated and is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all his endeavors. Vernon has been, and will continue to be, a highly valued colleague in the



land-grant system. All the best Vernon. I also want to congratulate and welcome the chair elect, Dr. Louis Whitesides (South Carolina State University) and secretary, Dr. Majed El-Dweik (Lincoln University) to the ARD leadership team.

TU and study abroad mission mourn loss of outstanding student

It is with heavy hearts that we extend our sympathy for the untimely passing of **KAYLA MARIE JONES**, a graduate student at Tuskegee University, on Oct. 26. Kayla earned a bachelor's of science degree in Animal, Poultry, and Veterinary Science in 2018. She was currently enrolled at Tuskegee and was on track to receive her master's degree in Animal Science during the 2020-2021 academic year.



KAYLA . JONES

Kayla was also a certified veterinarian assistant and worked part-time with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Tuskegee University, in addition, she served at a veterinarian tech at numerous pet clinics and hospitals.

Aside from her academic accomplishments, Kayla was highly involved in the Tuskegee community. During a recent meeting, the Tuskegee City Council passed a resolution recognizing the tragic loss of Kayla Jones.

Kayla also participated in the 2019 Study Abroad International Experiential Learning Mission to Costa Rica. She recognized the importance of the international experiential learning mission and contributed significantly to the delivery and improvement of the Costa Rica Study Abroad program. Her ability to work as a team member was truly remarkable. We very much appreciate her commitment to the program, sense of responsibility and leadership among her peers. She was very enthusiastic and able to keep the team at a higher level of engagement and performance throughout the mission.

Undoubtedly, Kayla and her peers made an outstanding presentation before the high-level delegation of the 1890 universities' administrators (Dr. Wilma Mishoe, past-president of Delaware State University; Dr. Mortimer

Neufville, president and CEO of the 1890 Universities Foundation; Dr. Antonio Boyle, vice president of Student Enrollment Management; Dr. Dyremple Marsh, dean of the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology; and Dr. Michael Casson, dean of the College of Business of Delaware State University) during their visit at EARTH University. The administrators were all impressed by the mastery of lessons learned and the contribution of the international experiential learning program to the academic training of Kayla and her colleagues.

Kayla has left us, but we will always remember her pleasantness and for being a team player that made significant contributions to moving the Costa Rica Study Abroad program, among the partnering 1890 universities, to a higher level of engagement. She was a part of a dynamic team that shaped the program for the greater good. We will continue to make her spirit live on and she will be commemorated in all subsequent Costa Rica missions by the new groups.

Kayla, Rest in Peace.

Respectfully submitted by the Costa Rica Study Abroad's Mentors: Dr. Eunice Bonsi and Dr. Conrad Bonsi, (Tuskegee University); Dr. Marikis Alvarez (Delaware State University); Dr. Stephan Tubene (University of Maryland Eastern Shore); and Dr. De'Etra Young (Tennessee State University).



LEAD21 - Apply By Nov. 30 - Applications for Class 17 (2021-2022) of Leadership in the 21st Century (LEAD21) by Nov. 30. The LEAD21 program provides leadership and professional development training for faculty and professionals within the land-grant system. More information and the link to apply is found [here](#).

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gram (ESGPIP), a multi-year, multi-million-dollar program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Ethiopia.

Parks has served on many committees, advisory boards and task forces at various levels of local, state, national and international significance. Briefly, he has served on the Farmer Loan Program, the Organic Standards, and the Small Farmer Outreach Committee, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' (APLU) Budget and Advocacy Committee, chair of the APLU's Experimental Station Committee on Policy (ESCOMP).

Parks has authored/co-authored hundreds of manuscripts, abstracts, book chapters, information briefs, business plans and feasibility studies with many of them appearing in

refereed journals/publications. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for teaching excellence, research accomplishments, academic mentoring, leadership and administration. In 1981, Parks was appointed as a Systems Exchange associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University, College Station and recently, in 2018, he was recognized as the Outstanding Faculty Member in the Department of Agriculture, Nutrition and Human Ecology at PVAMU.

Parks earned a bachelor of science in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the master's in science and doctorate in agricultural economics with a concentration in marketing from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

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1890 Land Grant Universities

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[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



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING | Appointment: 75% Teaching, 20% Research & 5% Extension

The Department of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff invites applications for a 12-month tenure track faculty position as assistant professor for Agricultural Engineering to start in January 2021. Applicants must be a certified professional engineer (P.E.) or demonstrate the ability to qualify for a P.E. in Arkansas. And should have experience and qualifications to be able to facilitate and coordinate activities required for ABET accreditation of the agricultural engineering program.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Engineering Technology or closely related discipline. Three or more years of teaching and curriculum development experience at the college level in the areas of agricultural power and machines, agricultural production system and soil and water systems. Five or more years of professional experience in the agricultural or construction equipment industry. Demonstrated ability in developing industry partnerships in the agricultural or construction equipment industry and/or the ability to facilitate procurement of resources in an academic environment.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Send a complete application that consists of the following: Letter of application, addressing qualifications, position responsibilities and college values; current CV or resume; official undergraduate and graduate transcripts and at least three professional references, preferably former supervisors to:

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; Human Resources Department; 1200 North University Drive Mail Slot 4942; Pine Bluff, AR 71601; Phone: (870) 575-8400; E-Mail: uapbjobs@uapb.edu.

NIFA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Grants Program strengthens institutional capacities, including curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems and student recruitment and retention, to respond to identified state, regional, national, or international educational needs in the food and agricultural sciences, or in rural economic, community and business development. This program enables colleges and universities to provide the quality of education necessary to produce baccalaureate or higher degree level graduates capable of strengthening the nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce. **Please note that there is no matching requirement.** For more information, read the [HEC funding opportunity](#).

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND BENCHMARKING COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Competitive Grants Program helps to improve the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly available farm financial management database. **Please note that there is no matching requirement** For more information, read the [FBMB funding opportunity](#).

RURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program (RHSE) Improves the quality of life in rural communities by providing the essential knowledge necessary for successful programs of rural development. **Please note that there is no matching requirement** For more information, read the [RHSE funding opportunity](#).

ARD CALENDAR



PAWG | DEC. 6-8 | "A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE" | SAVE THE DATE

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