

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

September 2020, Vol. 11, Issue 10



Message from the Chair

Dr. Vernon Jones

The students are back. However, as the fall semester gets underway, the spread of COVID-19 has drastically altered the landscape for the 1890 universities and the entire realm of higher education. We begin the 2020-21 academic year with student health as is a major concern. Similarly, to universities around the nation, the 1890s have reopened with a number of preventative

measures in place such as plexiglass barriers, mandatory masks, increased cleaning protocols and socially distanced, reduced occupancy in on-campus housing and classrooms. The 1890 campuses have also outlined a plan for fever checkpoints, COVID-19 tests and contact tracing.

Most of the 1890s have cut the semester short by forgoing breaks to combat the virus' transmission and ending classroom instruction by Thanksgiving. Others have staggered arrival dates or delayed the start of classes until September or October. Regardless of the preventive efforts the 1890s are investing in their campuses to safely reopen, the reality for many students is that most teaching will be remote as socially distanced classrooms can only hold a fraction of their usual capacity. In addition to remote learning, there is also a good mix of in-person, hybrid and online instruction. Obviously, there will be some hiccups. The 1890 administrators, however, are committed to providing quality instruction while ensuring the safety of our students, faculty and staff.

Being committed to providing quality instruction while ensuring the safety of our students, notwithstanding, the 1890 presidents and chancellors had to adjust to the loss of millions of dollars when they pivoted to digital instruction in the spring, in the form of refunded room-and-board payments and expensive technology for online courses. Another semester – or year – of online courses could be even worse, especially for the 1890 universities who do not have large endowments.

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DSU nabs NSF hemp grant

Delaware State University (DSU) has been awarded \$592,000 in a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to work with undergraduates on developing new applications for hemp.

The grant funding will allow DSU undergraduates to take part in the ongoing hemp research at the University.

“Research has shown that students who engage in research benefit from a wide range of outcomes, including more confidence in their abilities to do science, a greater

connection with the scientific community, and increased persistence in science,” said Dr. Kimberly Milligan, visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry



and principal investigator of the grant. “Students have a greater connection to their discoveries and learning when they can visualize the link between what they are learning in lab and real-world applications.”

DSU was Delaware’s lead research agency when hemp was legal only for research purposes. After passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, DSU created a hemp-specific curriculum within its College of Agriculture, Sciences and Technology.

DSU plans to focus this NSF grant on the study of:

- Chemical extraction techniques.
- The effects of CBD on cancer cells.
- The effects of hemp extract on parasitic larvae in light of the increased drug resistance of parasites.

DSU will continue its two-year cultivation research partnership with Kentucky State University.



DR. VERNON JONES



Kairo issues welcome to virtual ESS fall meeting

As ESCOP chair, and on behalf of the Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD), I welcome each of you to the virtual 2020 Fall Meeting of the Experiment Station Section (ESS) as we focus on “Inclusive Excellence.” In an article entitled, “Achieving Inclusive Excellence: Strategies for Creating Real and Sustainable Change in Quality and Diversity,” Damon Williams defines ‘inclusive excellence’ as “the idea that excellence should be measured by how well campus systems, structures and processes meet the need of all institutional citizens, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, other characteristics . . . In essence, true excellence embodies solutions to deep-seated problems.”

This theme of Inclusive Excellence is explicit in the three sessions of this meeting and is celebrated in the Diversity & Inclusion Award Program. The ESS directors will engage in inclusive deliberations about:

- actionable steps that may be undertaken within the next year to affect inclusive excellence;
- effective leadership and inclusive excellence in these challenging and unprecedented times caused by COVID-19; and
- the need of the scientific community to engage in inclusive deliberations about the impact of a disruptive technology and the unknown future.

The topics/issues of these sessions have to begin (and end) with deliberately engaging, thoughtful and inclusive discussions.

To encourage and maximize participation of our colleagues in the western region, and the U.S. islands and territories, our meetings will begin at 6 p.m. Eastern Daylight time on Sept. 28 and conclude on Oct. 1. Click on [this link for registration](#) and meeting information.

I thank you in advance for joining us virtually. This would have been an in-person gathering were it not for the pandemic, but ESS is committed to having a very meaningful fall meeting with a succinct, well-defined set of outcomes.



MANRRS sets virtual regional conferences

The MANRRS [Virtual Regional Cluster Experience registration](#) is open for collegiate students, alumni/professionals, national partners and exhibitors (non-sponsors).

The Virtual Regional Clusters will have a total of four connected events:

- Regional Cluster - Regions I/II/III - Friday, Sept. 25 - Saturday, Sept. 26.
- Regional Cluster - Regions IV/V/VI - Friday, Oct. 2 - Saturday, Oct. 3.
- New Member Induction Ceremony (for all new members joining after March 2020) - Friday, Oct. 9.
- Virtual Career Fair - Friday, Oct. 9.

The theme for this year’s meeting is “Reclaiming our Time, Territory & Triumph.”

The Regional Clusters serve as the organization’s fall premiere recruiting events. Each cluster will feature an Opportunity Fair, Mock Interviews, Student Competitions, Alumni Mixer, and professional and leadership development for student and professional attendees.

The goal of the cluster meetings is to encourage diversity and pluralism and promote the development of those leadership skills that will prepare our members for a thriving future in the agricultural, natural resources, and related sciences. We seek to provide strategies and techniques that will prove effective for member professional development and advancement in today’s work environment. MANRRS hopes to achieve this goal by collaborat-

ing with our corporate, government, and university partners to offer seminars that will provide a guide for their future success.

Schedule of Events		
Theme: Reclaiming our Time, Territory & Triumph	Regions I/II/III Sept. 25, 2020 1PM - 5PM EST & Sept. 26, 2020 11AM - 3:30PM EST	Regions IV/V/VI Oct. 3, 2020 1PM - 5PM CST & Oct. 4, 2020 11AM - 3:30PM CST
	New Member Induction Oct. 9, 2020 11AM - 12PM EST	Virtual Career Fair Oct. 9, 2020 1PM - 5PM EST

Register Today ▶

WWW.MANRRS.ORG/REGIONAL-CLUSTERS
 Web: www.manrrs.org | Email: dwane.matthews@manrrs.org

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To date, state and federal assistance have not compensated for this shortfall. Thus, as with other financial and funding challenges during the last 130 years together with additional pressures on their finances, the 1890 presidents, chancellors and administrators will continue to reduce their limited budgets, create other budget efficiencies, contend with hiring freezes, furloughs or layoffs and seek other sources of funding. Although there are some difficult days ahead, we will survive this COVID-19 crisis, and emerge even stronger.

On Monday, Aug. 31, more than 600 higher education leaders, elected officials and policymakers, business and community leaders virtually attended an Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) webinar to celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890. Signed into law on Aug.

tion and impact; the importance of advocacy; the need for increased and equitable funding; the importance of mutually beneficial public-private partnerships; the importance of sustained dialogue and the need to continue to “push” or be very persistent about pursuing additional partnerships.

The webinar also featured celebratory remarks from prominent dignitaries such as U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio), co-lead sponsor of the 1890 Centers of Excellence; U.S. Senator Tim Scott (South Carolina); Representatives Alma Adams (North Carolina), Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture; Sanford Bishop (Georgia), Chair of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee; Lisa Blunt-Rochester (Delaware); Marcia Brown (Ohio); James Clyburn (South Carolina); Frank Lucas (Oklahoma); David Scott (Georgia) lead sponsor of the

1890 Scholarship Program; and Harry L. Williams, president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund; Scott Hutchins, deputy under secretary of USDA’s Research, Education and Economics; Parag Chitnis, acting director of USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); and Chavonda Jacobs-Young, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and USDA’s acting chief scientist.

This webinar may be viewed by [clicking on this link](#).

I want to express our appreciation for the exceptional work of APLU’s Public Affairs Staff in executing this webinar and all activities connected with our 130th Anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890. I would also like to thank the 130th Planning Committee for a job well done, not only for the celebratory webinar, but also for a weeklong celebration from Aug. 24-30 that


included the 1890 community using an array of platforms to reflect on and celebrate the legacy of the 1890s on social media using **#Celebrate1890s**. Those platforms were used to highlight innovative programs, significant accomplishments and points of pride at the 1890 universities and their role in developing solutions for local, regional and global challenges. Members of the Planning Committee consisted of representatives from APLU, the 1890 Universities Foundation, 1890 Council of Deans of Agriculture, the Association of Extension Administrators, the Association of 1890 Research Directors, Federal Street Strategies, South Carolina State University and Virginia State University.

I also want to express my appreciation to Dr. Alton Thompson, ARD executive director, for his relentless efforts to ensure a successful and memorable 130th Anniversary Celebration.

In two weeks, ARD will serve as the host region for the virtual 2020 Fall ESS Meeting, Sept. 28-Oct. 1. The theme of this meeting is “Inclusive Excellence.” Moses T. Kairo, past ARD chair and current ESCOP chair, provides additional information for this meeting in an article in this edition of *ARD Updates*. I would like to congratulate Moses for assuming the role of ESCOP chair on July 1. He is representing ARD very well.

Finally, ARD’s fall business meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 3-5 p.m. EST.

“Keep on exercising. You’ll be glad you did.”



CELEBRATING 130 YEARS

30, 1890, the legislation designated 19 institutions as land-grant universities in states where segregation and discrimination prevented Black students from attending other institutions of higher education. The law was an important step in our ongoing national journey to advance equal opportunity and establish racial justice.

This celebratory webinar featured panel discussions examining the vital role that the 1890s continue to play in higher education and the nation’s future. The 1890 Presidents’ panel, moderated by C. Peter McPherson, president, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, consisted of Makola M. Abdullah, president, Virginia State University; Heidi M. Anderson, president, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and Paul A. Jones, president, Fort Valley State University.

The private sector panel, moderated by Fredrick Humphries, Jr., corporate vice-president, Microsoft Corporation, consisted of 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 & Diversity, Cargill; and Phillip Thomas-Wallace, director, U.S. Federal Government Affairs, Walmart.

The many take-a-ways from those two interactive panels included, but were not limited to, significant accomplishments of the 1890 system during the last decade; the significance of the 2018 Farm Bill; challenges and opportunities; responding to a crisis, such as COVID-19 which is of unknown dura-

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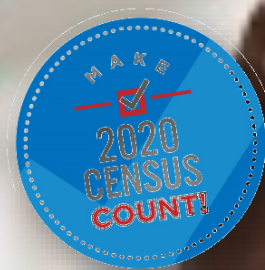
1890 Land Grant Universities

[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](#)
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[University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#)
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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



United States[®] Census 2020



VOTE

NEW PUBLICATIONS

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY releases the following new publications: The latest edition of the [College's news magazine, TriAg](#); the Inaugural issue of the College's [Cooperative Extension magazine, INSPIRE](#); and the College of Agriculture & Human Sciences [2020-25 Strategic Action Plan](#):

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE RESEARCH PROFESSOR IN FOOD SCIENCE, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH STATION (AERS).

The assistant/associate research professor in food science is a full-time 12-month appointment with primary responsibilities in research (75%), extension (20%) and teaching (5%). The position is housed within the Agricultural and Environmental Research Station and reports directly to the research director and dean for land-grant programs. The position is expected to co-lead the establishment and capacity building of the Food Science and Human Nutrition Research Institute at West Virginia State University. This position may be considered for the opportunity to co-direct the research institute, along with a new nutrition specialist.

Click on [this link for the position description](#), responsibilities and minimum/preferred qualifications. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EXTENSION SPECIALIST AND ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSOR FOR HUMAN NUTRITION, WV SU EXTENSION SERVICE /WV SU AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH STATION

The Extension specialist and assistant research professor for human nutrition at West Virginia State University is responsible for leading, coordinating, and evaluating educational programs and products related to human nutrition. The position will be split between the Extension Service (75%) and the Agricultural and Environmental Research Station (25%).

To Apply PREFERRED: Information accepted as e-mailed in Word or PDF format to rdemployment@wvstateu.edu. Qualified candidates may submit a cover letter, résumé, unofficial transcript and three professional references (name, title, address, phone number, and e-mail address). Closing date: Sept. 28. West Virginia State University Research and Development Corporation, ATTN: Search Committee for Extension Specialist and Assistant Research Professor for Human Nutrition, P.O. Box 1000, 204 ACEOP Administration Building, Institute, WV 25112.

ARD CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATES

2020 ESS-SAES-ARD FALL MEETING - Sept. 28-Oct. 1 | Virtual Meeting.

2020 APLU ANNUAL MEETING – Nov. 8-10 | Virtual Meeting.

2020 PAWC - Dec. 6-8.

NAPA BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE - Sept. 25-28