

Volume VIII, Issue 4

April, 2016



Message from the Chair



Association of
1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS



ARD UPDATES

Please visit the ARD website-

www.umes.edu/ard

or contact us using
cbbrooks@umes.edu

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to officially announce that Dr. Alton Thompson has accepted the offer of becoming our third Executive Director. As you know, Dr. Carolyn Brooks will retire from her role as Executive Director effective July 1st, and at that time Dr. Thompson will begin his new appointment as the next 'ED.'

Dr. Thompson is currently serving as interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at UMES and prior to this interim appointment he served as provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs at Delaware State University (DSU). Prior to joining DSU in July 2010, Thompson was a tenured professor and dean and executive director in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University for eight years and then served as interim provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs for two years. He earned his bachelor's degree at North Carolina Central University and his master's and doctorate degrees from The Ohio State University.

Thompson was inducted into the USDA/NIFA Hall of Fame in 2010 and he has also served in leadership roles on the Board on Agriculture Assembly for APLU, the 1890 Council of Deans of Agriculture, the Association of 1890 Research Directors, the Ford Foundation's Rural Economic Policy Program, the Census of Agriculture Advisory Panel of the National Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, and on the Southern Governors' Southern Growth Policies Board. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors of Food Systems Leadership Institute, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, and Carolina Farm Credit.

We are delighted to have Dr. Thompson back with us!

Sincerely,

Govind Kannan, Chair

Dr. Alton Thompson



****USDA-ARS Faculty Research Fellowships for Capacity Building at 1890 Land-Grant Universities**

Application Deadline: May 13, 2016. See the ARD Website for application information (link is: https://www.umes.edu/cms300uploadedFiles/1-AcademicAffairs/Agriculture_and_Natural_Sciences/_Research/ARD/FY%202016%20Program%20Information%20FR%20Fellowships.pdf) or look at left of website homepage www.umes.edu/ard. This is not a Grants.gov application process and the applications must be developed jointly between the 1890 applicant and the ARS RL host.

This new program offers research and training opportunities to career-track faculty at 1890s by providing opportunities to: work alongside ARS scientists in established research programs, develop new research skills and techniques, co-author research papers from successful collaborations, and to collaboratively develop scientifically competitive research.

A maximum of three applications per institution is allowed.

Applicants must have been employed at the 1890 at least five years in his/her current position and is approved for fellowship leave. Other important details are found at the above website.

ARD UPDATES

Highlights of NIFA's 2017 Budget (Excerpts)

The President's Budget request for NIFA include: Formula Programs – The 2017 Budget requests funding of \$781 million for formula grants to provide the long-term, sustainable support needed to grow the capacity for agricultural research, education, and extension activities at land-grant institutions and State agricultural experiment stations. These programs include Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c), Hatch Act, **1890's research and extension, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry**, and other grants. **A total of \$9 million in increases are requested for 1890's research, extension, and facilities programs** and the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program. The increased funding will support these minority serving institutions in reaching underrepresented African American and Native American students, building partnerships, and strengthening research and extension capacity; and avoid compromising the ability of existing minority-serving institutions in continuing their effective programming.

1890's Capacity Coordination Initiative – As the U.S. demographics change, development of a diverse agricultural sector workforce is essential to continue to provide competitive agricultural outputs. Resource-limited and small farmers, ranchers, and foresters need assistance to develop sustainable enterprises. The 1890 Institutions (historically black universities that were originally established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890) can help address these needs. **As part of the President's Budget, \$10 million is requested for three centers to increase coordination and collaboration between USDA and the 1890 Institutions. Each center will focus on a specific identified need: creating an integrated center to benefit small farms, ranches and forest landowners in high poverty areas; establishing a virtual center to support the science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mathematics pipeline of students and address the growing need for talented career candidates to meet future workforce needs; and satisfying the Nation's need in the areas of international engagement and global food security to increase international cooperation, trade and development. (Note: Please see descriptions of the 125th Anniversary Centers of Excellence on the homepage of ARD—www.umes.edu/ard).**

Recruitment Video Available:

As shared during the recent APLU-APS National Meeting held in Indianapolis (Nov. 2015) Purdue University has completed the YouTube Videos providing an overview of the latest “*USDA Employment Opportunities for College Graduates in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources, and the Environment: United States,*

2015-2020” [<https://www.purdue.edu/usda/employment/>]. The Purdue Ag versions of the video can be seen at <https://youtu.be/4WfrDVblxUs> [English Language Purdue Ag Version]

As part of the USDA-funded project Purdue Agriculture is able and willing to (1) provide campuses with the videos for inclusion of your institution's name, contact and logo, or (2) Purdue Agriculture is able and willing to add the information and logo for you... all at NO COST or charge to your institutions. Again, this is all part of a USDA-funded initiative. Please feel free to contact Steven Doyle (doyles@purdue.edu) or (Marcos Fernandez at mfernandez@purdue.edu) if you have any questions, needs, comments, etc.



Meeting Reminder:

**NERAOC—April 24-27, 2016
Philadelphia, PA**