

ARD UPdates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

August 2017, Vol. 8, Issue 8



Message from the Chair

Dr. Moses Kairo

I sincerely thank you for participating and being fully engaged in our summer business meeting in Dayton, Ohio and I thank Central State University for hosting the meeting.

Although the agenda was replete with a number of issues important to ARD, let me focus briefly on four important take-aways - the ARD Strategic Plan, the New Seeds Initiative, the 2018 Farm Bill and the 1890 Universities Foundation.

Two of the more significant and exciting ARD developments are creating a new strategic plan focusing on people, programs, partnerships, platforms and places and the New Seeds Initiatives focusing on existing and new emerging ideas and programs to improve the quality of life citizens in the 1890 region and beyond. The strategic plan will be designed to elevate the research enterprises in the food and agricultural sciences at the 1890s to an elite level while concurrently making us more relevant and responsive to our clientele. This plan will recognize the hard work, dedication and incredible talents of many people who positioned the 1890s for the next "giant leap."

The New Seeds Initiative will provide seed funding for a number of bold, creative and innovative ideas emanating from our research scientists that will innovatively advance the ARD priorities and goals. These one-time-only innovation grants will be awarded to support the development and enhancement of projects, activities, ideas and experiences that will enhance the 1890 system-wide capacity to provide practical solutions to improve the quality of life of the people we serve.

Walter Hill and Chandra Reddy, respectively, are chairing these two committees. Please send them your ideas, comments, suggestions, etc.



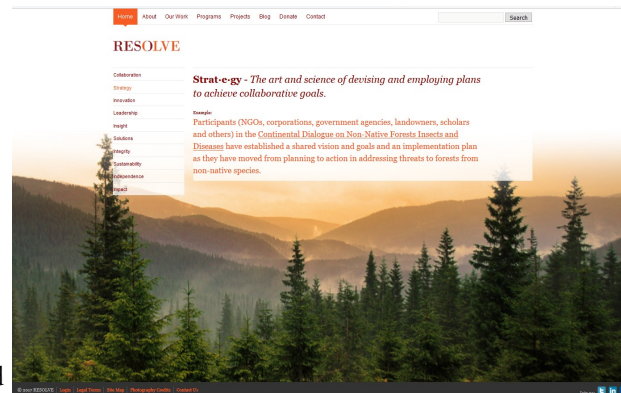
SoAR unites to advance Farm Bill, shared policy initiatives

Food and agricultural organizations have consistently pointed to the potential of a shared legislative policy agenda to strengthen and increase federal food and agricultural research. To this end, the Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation believes that a broad group of stakeholders, including the 1890s, can together create and advance such an agenda for the 2018 Farm Bill. The goal of this effort is not to replace the existing policy goals of any organizations, but to identify "the center of the Venn diagram," a set of significant steps that can be advanced by multiple organizations and to produce legislative language by the end of 2017.

SoAR has engaged RESOLVE, a DC-based facilitation group with experience in agriculture and agricultural research, to oversee this process. After conducting one-on-one interviews with selected participants, including our Executive Director, Alton Thompson, a one-day meeting was held on July 10 to explore the existing policy goals of participating organizations, potential areas of convergence, and opportunities for collaboration.

Three general content areas of the Research and Extension Title emerged, doubling REE funding, infrastructure, and structure. Three Adobe conferences were held, one for each content area. Notes from these conversations are currently under review by those who participated in these sessions and will be shared publicly by the end of the month. If you feel something has been omitted or if more clarity is needed on some issues important to the 1890 land-grant community, please contact Alton Thompson at athompson1@ncat.edu or 336-285-2955.

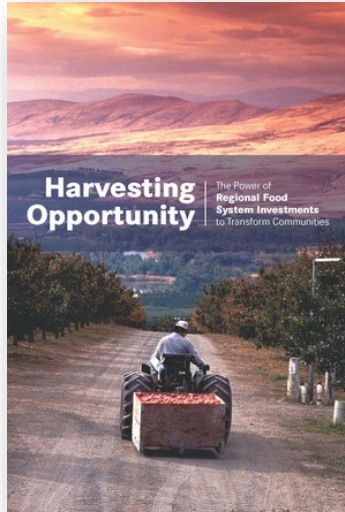
RESOLVE will convene a second one-day meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, in Washington, D.C.



Harvesting Opportunity promotes regional food system development

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and USDA's offices of Rural Development and the Agricultural Marketing Service, have released *Harvesting Opportunity: The Power of Regional Food System Investments to Transform Communities*, a compilation of research, essays and reports that explores the potential for the growing popularity of locally sourced food to be harnessed to boost economic opportunities for rural and urban communities.

"Regional food systems represent a promising avenue for economic growth for both rural and urban communities through the creation of new or the enhancement of existing jobs and businesses," said Federal Reserve Board Governor Lael Brainard and St. Louis Fed President James



Bullard in the book's foreword.

Through the work that was conducted to develop the book, "we also learned that, with appropriately targeted policies and support, the attendant opportunities can advance the economic and financial security of low- and moderate-income households and communities."

Contributors include experts from USDA, financial institutions, universities, nonprofits, philanthropic organizations and others. In addition to exploring how the development of regional food systems can contribute direct economic benefits, the book also shows how improved access to healthier foods can boost community health and lead to a more productive workforce. [Read Complete Article](#) or link

to [Harvesting Opportunity](#).

NIFA schedules virtual listening session to support scholar and grants programs

A Federal Register Notice entitled "[Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders Regarding the Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program \(MSP\) and the National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship \(NNF\) Grants Program: Stakeholder and Public Listening Session](#)" was published in the Federal Register on Aug. 2.

As part of its strategy to successfully meet the needs of its stakeholders, NIFA will host a virtual listening session. The focus of the listening session is to gather stakeholder input for the Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) and the National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship (NNF) Grants Program Request for Applications (RFA) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. NIFA is particularly interested in achieving the most impact and identifying suggested priorities in these workforce development programs.

The listening session will be held on Thursday, Aug. 24, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Anyone interested may submit written comments. All written comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. EDT on Aug. 24.

The comment period closes on **Aug. 24**.



Kairo ... (continued for Page 1)

All of us need to be fully engaged in the deliberations of these committees.

We also need to be engaged actively in the 2018 Farm Bill discussions. In addition to our capacity funds, ARD and AEA have been involved in various activities of the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) to identify 1890 priorities that include reauthorization of the 1890 Facilities Program, and the 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program. There was a day-long meeting, hosted by SoAR, on July 10 where three general content areas of the Research and Extension Title were discussed – doubling REE funding, infrastructure and structure. Notes from those conversations are currently under review and will be distributed to the membership before the end of the month. The next day-long meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 6. Please send your comments to Vernon Jones or Alton Thompson, who represents the 1890 interest in these discussions.

Finally, we need to support Dr. Mort Neufville in his efforts to advance the core missions of teaching, research and Extension across the 1890 system through the 1890 Universities Foundation. We need to begin to develop multistate, multi-institutional, interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary projects that focus on new and emerging issues and challenges. These projects should also be of interest to the private sector that will attract partnerships with federal agencies, including USDA.

I look forward to working with the membership in these important areas. We will continue to chart a path forward to advance the compelling ARD mission and vision that incorporates the diverse expertise, innovative approaches and technological advances being used on our campuses.

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1890 Land Grant Universities

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[Florida A&M University](#)
[Fort Valley State University](#)
[Kentucky State University](#)
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ARD Updates is published monthly by the Association of Research Directors. To suggest articles, contact Dr. Alton Thompson at athompson1@ncat.edu

USDA partners with SCORE to aid beginning farmers

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with officials from SCORE, the nation's largest volunteer network of expert business mentors, to support new and beginning farmers. The agreement provides additional resources for beginning ranchers, veterans, women, socially disadvantaged Americans and others, providing new tools to help them both grow and thrive in agribusiness.

"Shepherding one generation to the next is our responsibility. We want to help new farmers, veterans, and people transitioning from other industries to agriculture," said Secretary Perdue. "They need land, equipment, and access to capital, but they also need advice and guidance.

[Click for more information.](#)

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NEW APPOINTMENT

Effective Aug. 1, **DR. WESLEY L. WHITTAKER** was appointed as the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at Langston University, Langston, OK. All the best, Wesley. Dr. Whittaker succeeds **DR. MARVIN BURNS**, who retired at the end of June.

ARD CALENDAR

ESS/AES/ARD MEETING AND WORKSHOP

"A Question of Balance," hosted by Pennsylvania State University Philadelphia, PA, Sept. 25 -28, 2017. Welcoming reception to open the meeting on the evening of Sept. 25. You can register or learn more about the full agenda and other activities at the meeting registration site, <http://www.cvent.com/d/75qccv>.

Philadelphia Airport is close and convenient to downtown. The meeting will be held at the historic Hyatt at the Bellevue. The hotel is in the heart of center city, close to all attractions, and your stay includes access to an excellent sports facility. The hotel has extended our group rate to begin on Sept. 21 until Sept. 30, so that you can extend your stay if you would like to have more time to visit the city.

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