



ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

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Message from the Chair

Dr. Moses Kairo

I sincerely thank Dr. Lloyd Walker, dean and research director at Alabama A&M University, for organizing and convening the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture in Atlanta to develop and advance a set of objectives and priorities to define a path forward for an active and engaged Deans' Council. As eloquently stated by Walker, the Council of 1890 Deans

of Agriculture needs to support, complement, and contribute to the tripartite mission of the land-grant mission in a more intentional way and that the Council needs to elevate its "collective voice" in the conversations being held by the Association of Research Directors (ARD), the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), and APLU'S Administrative Heads Section (AHS).

Although the agenda was replete with a number of issues important to the Deans Council, let me focus on four important "takeaways" – student success and workforce development; Centers of Excellence; engaging the 1890 Council of Presidents and the Secretary of Agriculture and responding to the Challenge of Change report.

One of the most important issues confronting higher education, particularly at the 1890s and other HBCUs, is student success and workforce development—the recruitment, development, retention, graduation and placement of students. The need is particularly critical for the 1890s because the demand for graduates in the food, agriculture, renewable natural resources and the environment is significantly greater than the supply. To be specific, between 2015 and 2020, it is expected that there would be an average of 57,900 annual openings for graduates in these areas while the average annual openings for new U.S.

See Kairo on Page 2

BAC priorities funded at 2017 levels

The House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees have completed their respective versions of legislation to fund the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. For the six BAC priorities, all were funded at the FY 2017 level. The lack of increases in any program – including AFRI – was largely due to the reduction in funds available to the subcommittees for FY 2018. The House subcommittee has \$880 million less in funding available and the Senate has \$352 million less compared to FY 2017.

The House has passed all 12 appropriations bills, combining them into two legislative vehicles. The first was for national security programs and the latter was for all other agencies – including USDA. The full Senate has taken no action on any appropriations bills for FY 2018.

Congress enacted and the president has signed a continuing resolution through Dec. 8, which will provide funding for programs at the FY 2017 level and avoid a possible government

shut-down prior to that date. We expect Congress to enact another omnibus appropriations bill prior

to Dec. 8 to fund government operations for the balance of the fiscal year. Helping to drive this action will be the need to pass disaster relief funding for the three hurricanes which affected the United States.



Visit us online at www.umes.edu/ard

APLU hosts new administrators workshop Dec. 12-14

The APLU new administrators' workshop is intended for individuals on the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly and their supporting administrators or faculty and USDA-NIFA personnel who have entered an administrative position since 2013 and any others who would like to learn more about APLU, the land-grant university system, BAA, and USDA-NIFA. Information presented will be particularly useful to administrative heads, directors, associate/assistant directors, and USDA-NIFA national program leaders and administrators.

The session's learning objectives are:

- Discuss compelling issues facing LGU administrators, budgeting and accountability advice.
- Gain valuable tips from experienced administrators and

how to be a proactive administrator.

- Learn how the APLU, BAA, USDA-REE and USDA-NIFA work together to advance research, education and Extension.
- Learn how to become involved at the national level to influence federal legislation and decisions made by USDA-NIFA and other agencies.
- Understand the diverse roles of various institutional types within the land-grant university system and the BAA.
- Establish strategic networks with colleagues.

For registration, the agenda, and hotel information, please visit the [website](#).

Kairo ... (Continued from Page 1)

graduates with expertise in these areas is 35,400, a gap of 39 percent. The Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture must take concrete steps to meet our students in the food and agricultural sciences where they are, and provide them with an exceptional education for professional and personal success. Some of the strategies discussed to enhance student success and workforce development included expanding learning outcomes assessment; increasing and promoting opportunities to engage in research and active learning; increasing participation in professional internships and co-op experiences, service learning and study abroad programs, and research; supporting high-quality graduate and professional education, and assisting students to develop 21st Century skills that will enable them to become more competitive and lifelong learners in an increasingly globalized economy.

Second, the Council of 1890 of Deans of Agriculture will continue to support the Centers of Excellence designed to enhance the relationship between the universities and USDA and its partner agencies and look creatively for ways to help solve many of the issues plaguing the food and agricultural industry. After considerable discussion and revisions, six centers, which would focus on the following areas were recommended:

- Student Success and Workforce Development
- Health, Wellness and Quality of Life
- Farming Systems, Rural Prosperity and Economic Sustainability
- Global Food Security, Trade and Defense
- Natural Resources, Energy and Environment
- Emerging Technologies

Of course, the existing two Centers (Innovative and Sustainable Small Farmers, Ranchers and Landowners; and International Engagement and Development) will be incorporated into the newly proposed centers. Each dean/research director should identify in rank order, the two or three Centers for which he or she would like to be a member of the leadership team. Please submit this information to Dr. Mortimer Neufville, president 1890 Universities Foundation at MNeufville@apl.edu on or before Oct. 20th.

Third, the 1890 Deans Council needs to improve its com-

munications and engagement with the Council of 1890 Presidents significantly and must find a mechanism to establish regular communication with Dr. Sonny Perdue, USDA Secretary. The deans should leverage their knowledge of the opportunities, challenges, and issues in food and agriculture facing the 1890s by communicating with the 1890 presidents on a consistent basis through well-established channels. Likewise, the Deans Council, along with ARD and AEA, should also communicate these opportunities, challenges, issues, and legislative concerns to Secretary Purdue because of their uniqueness and differentiation from the 1862 land-grant institutions. The stakeholders that we serve need to have their voices heard and their needs met.

Fourth, the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture unanimously endorsed the Challenge of Change report, commissioned by APLU, that identified seven challenge areas in achieving global food and nutrition security:

- increase yields, profitability, and environmental sustainability simultaneously
- develop the varieties and breeds needed for sustainable food systems
- decrease food loss and waste through more efficient distribution systems
- create and share resources that serve all populations
- ensure inclusive and equitable food systems
- address the dual burdens of undernutrition and obesity to ensure full human potential
- ensure a safe and secure food supply that protects and improves public health.

As such, the Deans committed to adjusting their strategic plans or plans of work to make critical contributions to solutions for two or more of these challenges to food and nutrition security, particularly in the 1890 region.

I look forward to working with Dr. Walker as he continues to shape the direction of the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture on these important issues. ARD will work with the Council to develop and advance a set of objectives and priorities to define a path forward to improve the life quality and prosperity of the stakeholders we serve.

New Farm Bill development/hearings in progress



House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX) continues to work towards action on a new farm bill before the end of the year. The Committee has held numerous hearings and listening sessions across the country to

receive input from interested parties. The Chairman's staff is now compiling that input into proposed changes in law and obtaining cost estimates for each. The current farm bill generally expires on Sept. 30, 2018.

Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, has also held hearings throughout the year and indicated his hope to move a bill during this calendar year. However, delays by the Trump Administration in naming appointees to key USDA jobs which require Senate approval means that the Committee is now considering many of

these nominees. The delay in filling these positions also diminishes the input that USDA has been able to offer to both committees on the administration's priorities, as well as technical assistance to evaluate proposals.

The BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy has already submitted some of the technical updates to programs affected land-grant university research, Extension and teaching programs. We anticipate continuing to receive additional proposals from within the BAA system, and being asked by the Congressional committees to respond to proposals from others.



LEAD21 seeks applicants for new class

LEAD21 is seeking applications for its new class beginning in June 2018. LEAD21 is intended to meet the future needs for leadership development of faculty, specialists, district and regional directors, program and team leaders, research station and center directors, department heads and chairs, and others in the universities' colleges of agricultural, environmental, natural resources, veterinary sciences, and human sciences and USDA/NIFA. Individuals from land-grant, NARRU institutions and USDA are encouraged to participate.

Program components include:

Three on-site sessions

- Session I: June 25-29, 2018; Minneapolis, MN
- Session II: Oct. 1-4, 2018; Phoenix, AZ
- Session III: Feb. 19-22, 2019; Washington, DC
- Independent learning experiences

Program cost:

- \$9,750 (includes lodging, meals and educational materials for all three sessions)
- Limited scholarships available

Application deadline: Nov. 15, 2017

[Apply online](#)



USDA-NIFA Multistate Project W-3128 wins 2017 National Water & Energy Conservation Award

Earlier this month, The Irrigation Association announced that the 2017 National Water & Energy Conservation Award will be awarded to the scientists from 20 land-grant universities for their current USDA-NIFA Multistate Five-Year (2014-2019) Project W-3128, "Scaling Microirrigation Technologies to Address the Global Water Challenge."

The Irrigation Association, through this national award, honors projects that show significant achievement in the conservation of water and energy relating to irrigation procedures, equipment, methods, and techniques. Irrigation Association officials will present this award to the Micro-Irrigation group during the association's upcoming annual meeting in Orlando, FL. Nov. 6-10.

Such an award recognizes the participating universities' exceptional collaboration on a multistate research project. Congratulations are in order to the research scientists at Prairie View A&M University and Tennessee State University for being members of this awarding project team.

Read [complete story](#) here.

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1890 Land Grant Universities

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[Alcorn State University](#)
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[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

NEW APPOINTMENTS



YOUNG NAMED REE ACTING DIRECTOR

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that **DR. CHAVONDA JACOBS-YOUNG** will serve as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE). The designation and delegations of authority are effective immediately

ARD CALENDAR



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

APLU 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The Age of Disruption: Navigating, Innovating, and Excelling

Nov. 12-14, 2017, Washington, DC

[Register here.](#)

Please contact Jean R. Middleton, APLU chief of staff, at jmiddleton@aplu.edu or

202-478-6060 if you have any questions.



75TH PAWC CONFERENCE

Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL
December 3-5, 2017

THEME: 75th Anniversary: *"Building Bridges to a Productive, Just and Sustainable Future"*

[Register here.](#)

2018 JOINT AEA/ARD BUSINESS MEETING

Jan. 29 – Feb. 1, 2018, Westin Georgetown Hotel, 2350 M. Street NW, Washington, DC 20037

Reservation Process: The block of rooms has been reserved under the name of the Association of Extension Administrators 2018 Winter Meeting. To make reservations, please call 1-888-627-8406. The rate is \$172 per night plus a 14.5 percent tax per night, and includes complimentary in-room internet access. This rate is available three days prior to and after the meeting, subject to availability of guest rooms available at the time of reservation. The cut-off date for the established room rate is Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018.

All persons who are planning to attend the winter meeting must register by Jan. 3, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact [L. Washington Lyons](#) or [Dr. Alton Thompson](#).



COMING SOON. Watch your mailboxes for printed copies of Highlights from the 18th Research Symposium. If you don't receive a copy, contact [Dr. Alton Thompson](#).