



Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

This month I wanted to use my newsletter section to update you on system-wide information and initiatives.

Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy has indicated that the 2016 NIFA budget requests will include support for increases for competitive and capacity funds, for the three innovation institutes at \$125 million, and for increased funding for the MSIs. The 2016 budget theme is "Ag and Health", embracing the nexus of public, animal, plant, environmental and economic health. Additionally the names of the board members of the USDA Foundation for Food and Ag Research were announced in late July (www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/07/0156.xml). We have also learned that not only will the LGUs be exempted from the matching requirements of NIFA programs that previously required a match, the LGU partners will also be exempted from matching.

ESCOP supports the following payment structure to pay *Sightlines* to garner the needed information to extrapolate capital infrastructure needs at LGUs: large 1862s would pay \$1500, 1890s and small 1862s would pay \$750 and BAA groups would pay \$3000. Some expansion proposals have been developed for the work of kGlobal, the communications and marketing firm. While ESCOP supports all three expansions, I provided your stance at the Policy Board of Directors' (PBD) meeting, noting that while we concur that all three expansions would be beneficial, it is not our desire to increase assessments as being paramount. Since ECOP has agreed to sustain support of the CMC effort and AHS may contribute, our current assessments might be lowered and if so, some or all of the proposed scope of work expansions might be possible.

We are pleased that the BAC has the concurrence of the PBD to direct Cornerstone and the rest of the system to advocate for increased Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension funding to prevent the 1890s from decreased funding by adding Central State University as eligible for these funds in 2016.

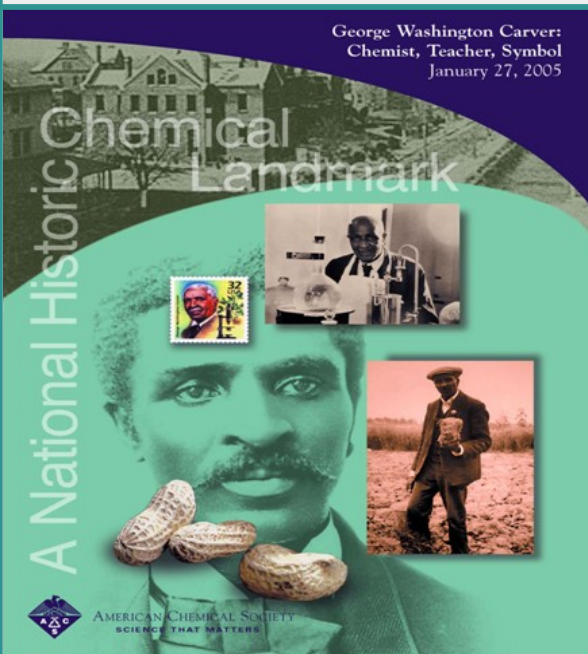
Sincerely,

Shirley Hyman-Parker, *Chair*



125 Years of Providing Access and Enhancing Opportunities

2014 Is the 150th Anniversary of George Washington Carver's Birth



Dr. George Washington Carver was born a slave on a Missouri plantation owned by a white family that allowed him to be educated. He was the first black student to attend and graduate from what is now Iowa State University. As a Tuskegee employee he was surely a great example of what we describe as joint appointments today because he was the first research director at Tuskegee University (Institute) conducting research on soil health, fertilizer efficacy, and crop rotation and also driving the Jesup Wagon to give hands-on demonstrations to farmers like Extension agents are known to do. Before his death in 1943, Dr. Carver had become internationally renowned for the hundreds of products he produced from peanuts and sweet potatoes.

Please visit the ARD website:

www.umes.edu/ard

or contact us using

cbbrooks@umes.edu

ARD UPDATES



ESCOP and ECOP are working together on the following:

- ♦ The APLU Board of Agriculture Assembly Policy Board of Directors (BAA-PBD), working together with the Board on Human Sciences (BoHS), took action to establish an integrated *Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People* Steering Committee. The purpose of the steering committee is to develop a broad-based initiative for which funding will be sought. Members of work groups also will be named, and they will augment the leadership of the steering committee. ESCOP has selected Shirley Hymon-Parker of ARD and Clarence Watson of SAAESD to be its representatives on the steering committee.
- ♦ The PBD approved the establishment of a system-wide “futuring” initiative to help position the LGUs to address the grand challenges facing society now and as those challenges intensify in the future. This initiative will utilize the current roadmaps and strategic plans from the BAA sections as a starting point to develop a long-range integrated vision for the system 20-25 years in the future. A steering committee is being established to determine the charge, outputs, timeline and composition of the futuring task force to guide the initiative. Representing the 1890s on this committee is Dr. Govind Kannan, FVSU.
- ♦ An MOU has been drafted seeking to develop and maintain an active partnership between USDA Regional Climate Change Hubs and CES and ESS to work jointly, as resources allow, to develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies to agricultural and natural resource managers, communities, families, and individuals and to motivate climate-smart decision-making. These hubs will enhance coordination of the science assets of USDA and its partners to accelerate the development and delivery of science, promote best practices for risk management, create new knowledge, help integrate climate risk into overall risk management processes, and provide risk-management training.
- ♦ A proposal was submitted to the BAC to move things along in getting the “Big Ask” (\$100 million for five years) from upcoming NIFA funding for *US Water Security*. Dr. Ramaswamy said this request was too late for this next cycle of funding but he would work with the system for future funding. The Water Security Working Group has developed a strawman paper for further input and dialog with NIFA.
- ♦ The National Impact Database is up and running but is primarily populated by CES submissions. ESS impacts are very much needed and while ARD has established a quality control process, the 1890s are asked to step up the pace for submissions. The 1862 and 1890 quality control point initially begins at the research director’s level and directors are asked to assure that their designated site personnel are trained in writing impact statements. An electronic training site is located at <http://www.waesd.org/research-reporting>.

Participants at the July Dow AgroSciences BEST Summit (Theme of Diversification of the Workforce Pipeline)

