



Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

First, as this is my first newsletter message as ARD Chair, I thank you for the faith you placed in me to serve in this leadership capacity and I look forward to serving you as we work together on behalf of our institutions. We have just experienced “1890s on the Hill” during the week of July 13—15th and pride and joy were the emotions most described. Since this newsletter is also a means of archiving 1890s’ events and happenings, I wanted to use this section of the newsletter to recap much of what took place in DC.

On Monday, July 13, 2015 the USDA/1890 Task Force met and invited additional agency heads and all Presidents/Chancellors of the 1890s. While we do not know the details related to our three Anniversary Centers of Excellence, we were told some funding from the USDA will be received for each of the Center initiatives.

On Tuesday, July 14, 2015 the focus centered on public-private partnerships and enhancing such partnerships with the 1890s. At an afternoon session presentations were made accordingly by panelists from Monsanto, National Crop Insurance Services, Tyson Foods, John Deere, DuPont, and Walmart. That night the 1890 community and guests enjoyed fellowship at the welcoming reception.

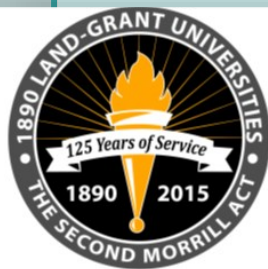
On Wednesday, July 15, 2015 – Chairman Mike Conaway of the House Committee on Agriculture hosted a Meet and Greet for the 1890 CEOs in the Longworth House Office Building to precede the historic House Hearing on the 1890s. House Members participated and asked questions of the CEOs and voiced support of the 1890s going forth. Testimonies at the hearing were given by: Dr. George C. Wright (PVAMU), Dr. Jessica Bailey (FVSU), Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr.(NCAT), Dr. Elmira Mangum (FAMU), Dr. Brian Johnson (Tuskegee) and Dr. Juliette B. Bell (UMES). The entire hearing can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Uty-2X9DYU>

Following the hearing in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress the “1890s on the Hill” Exhibition and Reception took place. At least 500 were in attendance to view exhibits from all of the 1890s and five of their partners (NIFA, APHIS, NCIS, SSARE and ARS). The Anniversary Dinner was held that night and Congressman David Scott and Congressman Sanford Bishop addressed the audience prior to accepting Champions Award from the 1890s. Awards were also presented to the 125th Anniversary Sponsors. More than 450 were in attendance, the UMES Concert Choir performed and the VSU jazz ensemble entertained the attendees throughout dinner.

On Thursday, July 16th the convocation was held in the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. Again, more than 450 were in attendance. Addresses were made by Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress, Dr. M. Peter McPherson, President of APLU, Rep. Alma Adams, Co-chair of the Bipartisan Caucus on HBCUs, Ms. Audrey Rowe, Food and Nutrition Service Administrator, and Mr. Steve Mizell, V.P. of Human Relations at Monsanto Company. Secretary Tom Vilsack’s keynote address included remarks about USDA partnerships with the 1890s and he indicated there will be a \$1 million initial investment to support the start-up of the Anniversary Centers.

I, like the rest of the 1890 community, feel that the four days of events in Washington helped meet goals and expected outcomes for the year-long commemorative events for the 125th Anniversary.

Sincerely, Govind Kannan, ARD Chair



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Historic Event: 1890 University CEOs testifying before the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives on July 15, 2015. (Not pictured at the table is Dr. George Wright who had testified for Prairie View A&M University.)

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We Lose Two 1890 University Champions



Dr. George Cooper departed this life on July 18, 2015. He was serving in the role of executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Dr. Cooper had served as the 10th president of South Carolina State University, having served in that capacity from 2008—2012. His contributions to the 1890 community include his service as a senior fellow with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, chair of the Council of 1890 Universities, chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and his service on the HBCU and Limited Resource Institution Academic Advisory Group. Dr. Cooper spent 17 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and served five years at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) as vice president for academic affairs and as dean of the School of Applied Sciences at Tuskegee University. Cooper received his bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from FAMU, a master's degree in animal science from Tuskegee University, and a doctoral degree in animal nutrition from the University of Illinois.

President Obama released a statement saying, "George spent the majority of his life ensuring that students at our nation's HBCUs were receiving a quality education and had the necessary resources to succeed and make their communities and our country better," he said. "George's passing is a great loss for my Administration, the HBCU and higher education communities and for everyone that knew him."

Dr. Dolores R. Spikes passed on June 1, 2015. Dr. Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes was one of the most revered CEOs among the 1890s and worked tirelessly on their behalf. Dr. Spikes was the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's 11th chief executive and was the first woman to hold that title.



Spikes had also been president of her alma mater, Southern University and A&M College (system) in Baton Rouge, LA. She was the first woman to head a public college in Louisiana and expressed pride in being among the first black women in the nation to earn a doctorate in mathematics (LSU). *Ebony* magazine named her as one of the 20 most influential black women in America and President Bill Clinton had appointed Spikes to a White House board of advisers on historically black institutions. She had been Chair of the NASULGC Council of Presidents and Vice Chair of the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities. Spikes is fondly remembered as having served as one of the 1890s' strongest and most outspoken advocates. She elegantly spoke about the lingering effects of segregation and the stereotypes long-associated with historically black colleges. As she retired from academia she said "We are not done yet with the program. Whoever succeeds me must have the tenacity to keep it going." We direly miss her and the tenacity she exuded on our behalf.

Congratulations to 1890 Family Members

Dr. Shirley Hymon-Parker was named interim dean/director of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at N.C. A&T. Hymon-Parker has been the agriculture school's associate dean for research since 2009. She previously served the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for 26 years and was a professor and department chair in human ecology at that institution.

Dr. Edmund R. Buckner was named interim dean/director of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences. In this position, he will be responsible for the academic, research, Extension and international programs of the School and the management of its resources.

Dr. Adell Brown, Jr. was named Interim Chancellor of Southern University Agricultural and Research Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Brown, who assumed office effective July 1, 2015, has over 42 years of experience in higher education and agriculture, with 39 of those years at Southern University. Since 2012, Brown has held the title of Executive Vice-Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research at the Southern University Ag Center.

Dr. Kirk Pomper was named Interim Director of Land Grant Programs at Kentucky State University. A longtime researcher at Kentucky State University, Pomper most recently served as an associate research director and professor in the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems. His other duties include serving as a curator of the USDA's National Clonal Germplasm Repository for *Asimina spp.*, with KSU holding the largest pawpaw germplasm collection in the world.

Dr. Robert Barney retires after more than five years of service at West Virginia State University. Barney has served at WVSU as Interim Assistant Vice President for Research and Public Service since 2013, as well as Associate Dean and Associate Director of WVSU's Agricultural and Environmental Research Station since arriving at State in 2010.

Dr. James Garner, Jr. retired on July 1, 2015 after fourteen years of service to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He came to UAPB in 2001 as Chair of the Department of Agriculture until he was appointed Dean/Director in 2008. Dr. Garner was strongly committed to the ARD and retired while serving as the newly elected ARD Chair.

Best Wishes and Continued Success to Drs. Hymon-Parker, Buckner, Brown, and Pomper and Much Happiness Is Wished for Drs. Barney and Garner on Their New Journey.