



# Message from the Chair



Association of  
1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS



## ARD UPDATES

### Dear Colleagues:

I hope you will assist us with getting the information out to your Academic, Research and Extension faculty about the RFAs for the funding we have now received from APHIS, FAS, NRCS and Rural Development to fund two of our 1890 Centers of Excellence. The first RFA is available on the [www.umes.edu/ard](http://www.umes.edu/ard) website and is for initiatives funded by APHIS and FAS for the Center of Excellence for International Engagement for International Workforce Development. The RFA can be found at: [https://www.umes.edu/cms300uploadedFiles/1-AcademicAffairs/Agriculture\\_and\\_Natural\\_Sciences/\\_Research/ARD/RFA%20International%20Workforce%20Development%20-%20CB%20input.pdf](https://www.umes.edu/cms300uploadedFiles/1-AcademicAffairs/Agriculture_and_Natural_Sciences/_Research/ARD/RFA%20International%20Workforce%20Development%20-%20CB%20input.pdf)

The proposals are due December 15th and if you have questions, please email Dr. Moses Kairo at [mkairo@umes.edu](mailto:mkairo@umes.edu) or Dr. Carolyn Brooks at [cbbrooks@umes.edu](mailto:cbbrooks@umes.edu) (phone—410-200-4566).

The second RFA will be out soon. It relates to the funding for initiatives to be a part of the Center for Innovative and Sustainable Small Farms, Ranches and Forest Lands (CISFRL) and Dr. Walter Hill is the Program Director for the multi-agency funded agreements. Please look for emails announcing this RFA as it will be developed during a meeting in Atlanta on December 1st.

As was announced by USDA Secretary, the Honorable Tom Vilsack, these are pilot projects for what we hope will grow into well funded Centers of Excellence and with these initial projects we are learning and improving as we go along. We are extremely anxious to get started and hope to engage as many of the 1890s as is possible, realizing pilot projects will not be as inclusive of all initially. But the goal for our Anniversary Centers of Excellence is to develop in scope and financially so that funding can be available for all nineteen campuses.

Finally, as we near the end of 2015, I wish for all of you and yours *Joyous Holidays*...and hopefully a little well deserved rest.

Sincerely,

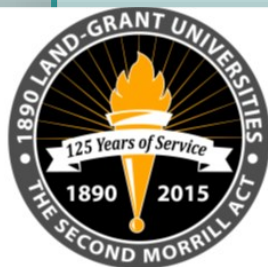
Govind Kannan, ARD Chair



### ***The Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) 2016-2017 has announced its RFPs.***

One of AEOP's initiatives is UNITE, a four-to-six week, pre-collegiate summer experience for talented high school students from groups historically underrepresented and underserved in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Held at higher education institutions across the country, UNITE encourages students to pursue college majors and careers in engineering and other STEM-related fields through a program of focused hands-on rigorous academics, enrichment, and career exploration. ***An incentive for applying for UNITE funding is that it can be used as add-on funding to existing summer STEM programs at your institution. The funds can be used for STEM instruction, STEM instructional supplies/materials, salaries for program facilitators, student stipends and costs for STEM field trips to include the associated meals/snacks.***

***For UNITE, the proposal submission deadline is December 16, 2015 and the RFP can be found at [http://www.usaeop.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2016-2017-UNITE-RFP\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.usaeop.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2016-2017-UNITE-RFP_FINAL.pdf)***



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or contact us using [cbbrooks@umes.edu](mailto:cbbrooks@umes.edu)

# ARD UPDATES

## Congratulations to Dr. Alton Thompson



Dr. Thompson, award recipient, and ESCOP Chair, Dr. Shirley Hyman-Parker

At the 2016 APLU Annual Meeting Dr. Alton Thompson received the ESS National Excellence in Leadership Award from the ARD Region. This is the second year for this national award given out to each of the five regions. The 2014 recipient was Dr. Carolyn Brooks and the call for nominations for 2016 is out now. This is a very prestigious award and we are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Thompson selected as our esteemed recipient.

Dr. Thompson currently serves as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Delaware State University and prior to this held the same position at North Carolina A&T State University in an interim role. He served for many years as Dean, Research Professor, and Department Chair at the latter institution in the food and agricultural sciences. He has served the land-grant community and what was then called CSREES in numerous ways including panel chair for the education portfolio, and panelist for both NASS and ERS reviews. He provided leadership for several state and national conferences and has been a sought-after speaker. He served as the ARD chair among other ARD offices and leadership positions, served on the BAA Policy Board of Directors, and served three years on the NAREEE Board. He has been an editor and served on the editorial boards of two refereed journals and a consultant/reviewer for several small business innovation research initiatives. Dr. Thompson received a SAES Leadership Award from the USDA as far back as 1991 and remains a dedicated champion for land-grant university initiatives. Again, we congratulate our colleague and friend, Dr. Alton Thompson.

## *Dr. Jones Appointed as 10th President of Fort Valley State University*



The Georgia Board of Regents named Dr. Paul Jones as the tenth president of Fort Valley State University during their Nov. 10th meeting. Jones served as interim president of Darton State College, a University System of Georgia state college.

Dr. Jones' employment background includes serving as chief budget officer and interim president at Georgia College and State University. While at GCSU, he worked in several interim roles including as the institution's president, assistant to the president, and vice president of academic affairs. He also held the positions of vice president and chief of staff and vice president for institutional research and enrollment management. Dr. Jones holds a doctorate of philosophy degree in education and human resource studies from Colorado State University and a bachelor's and master's degree from Utah State University.



Don't forget to register for the 73rd Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) at Tuskegee University. For registration information please go to <http://www.pawc.info/node/164>

The draft agenda can be found at <http://www.pawc.info/sites/default/files/attachments/draft%20agenda%20november%202023.pdf>

