



Message from the Chair



Association of
1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

Dear Colleagues:

This month I want to pay tribute to someone we at Fort Valley State University hold dearly in our hearts and are truly saddened to have lost him. We realize too that he was endeared throughout the entire 1890 community.

James H. Hill, Jr.

The 1890 Community lost a beloved member of its family on Jan. 5, 2016, James H. Hill, Sr. This amazing man was warm, inspirational, encouraging, and charismatic. He was truly devoted to our 1890 land-grant universities and gave of himself for us with enthusiasm and competence continuously. "As James walked the road of sustainable agriculture through the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program, there was no shortage of warm greetings...a kind smile...a firm handshake. The lives he touched ever-growing; the knowledge he imparted immense." (A quote from his colleague, Candace Pollock at SARE.)

James was born on May 1, 1962. Growing up in his community, he had a special proclivity for the outdoors and developed a love for agriculture. James' involvement in FFA was extraordinary. With his 'golden' voice and his natural gift and love of public speaking, he traveled across the state and country competing with FFA and winning local, state and regional competitions. His success in this area led him to a competition held at Camp John Hope in Fort Valley, Georgia and from that connection he later enrolled at Fort Valley State College and graduated with a B.S. degree concentrated in agronomy. After several very successful careers over the years, James settled into the perfect role for him in 2004 as the Southern Region SARE 1890 Land Grant Liaison in the Office of Limited Research Farmer and Minority Outreach on the campus of Fort Valley State University. He was responsible for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and 13 southeastern states. In this position, James would literally do remarkable things to change the lives of others. This was definitely his calling.

We will miss our friend James but we will hold him in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Govind Kannan, Chair

James H. Hill, Sr.



Update on the Funding from APHIS and FAS in Support of the 125th Anniversary Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development

In response to an RFP sent to the 1890 Universities that would have them respond to the Plan of Work outlined in signed agreements between the 1890s and APHIS and the 1890s and FAS, thirteen(13) proposals were submitted and evaluated by a panel with experience in providing international training of students. The agencies subsequently provided their input indicating the strengths/weaknesses of the proposals. After these deliberations, the following campuses were successful and are included in one year of funding to total \$180,000 from APHIS and \$136,000 from FAS: Langston University (lead), Fort Valley State University and Virginia State University (\$75,282); N.C. A&T State University (lead), South Carolina State and Alabama A&M Universities (\$49,902); Florida A&M University (lead), Tuskegee University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Delaware State University (\$76,836); Alcorn State University (\$30,000); Virginia State (lead) and Langston Universities (\$35,000); and Tennessee State and Alabama A&M Universities (\$48,980). In February, these proposals will be presented in Washington, DC for further fine-tuning in response to agency suggestions.



ARD UPDATES

Please visit the ARD website-

www.umes.edu/ard

or contact us using cbbrooks@umes.edu

ARD UPDATES

Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA)

Challenge Grant Program—closing date March 18, 2016

The Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants (SPECA) program seeks to: (a) promote and strengthen secondary education and two-year postsecondary education in agriscience and agribusiness in order to help ensure the existence in the United States of a qualified workforce to serve the food and agricultural sciences system; and (b) promote complementary and synergistic linkages among secondary, two-year postsecondary, and higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences in order to advance excellence in education and encourage more young Americans to pursue and complete a baccalaureate or higher degree in the food and agricultural sciences.

Please see <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/secondary-education-two-year-postsecondary-education-and-agriculture-k-12>

Thank you:

Thanks to De'Shoin York, Fatemeh Malekian and Stephanie Elwood from Southern University Ag. Res. and Extension Center for hosting the AgIsAmerica Twitter Town Hall in November 2015.



Meeting Reminders:

ARD Meeting—Hyatt Regency Atlanta: February 9—12, 2016

USDA/1890 Task Force Meeting and Orientation—February 29—March 1, 2016 Whitten Building, Washington, DC

AHS/CARET Meeting—March 6—8, 2016, Westin Hotel, Alexandria, VA

The 1890 Region Represents ESCOP in D.C.

An Alliance between the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) and the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) was established and continues to be strengthened. This alliance has resulted in several joint initiatives and when there are Cooperative Extension Section (CES) or Experiment Station Section (ESS) independent initiatives, representation from the other section is requested as appropriate, thus having liaisons to keep CES and ESS familiar with each other's priority areas. Two major ESCOP-ECOP initiatives include the Water Security and the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Initiatives.

In January the ESCOP Chair and Executive Vice Chair, Shirley Hymon-Parker and Carolyn Brooks respectively went to visit with USDA-REE and NIFA leadership, Cornerstone Government Affairs and the *kglobal* communications firm with the ECOP Chair Michelle Rodgers and CES Extension Director Jane Schuchardt to update them on our alliance initiatives in particular and to hear from them so that their messages can be taken back to ESS and CES. Some of the requests include having ESCOP and ECOP to do a better job in mobilization on advocacy for the land-grant system, continue the momentum from work done to complete the Sightlines Report on infrastructure needs at land-grant universities, involvement in President Obama's push to address drug problems in America, and programmatic thrusts that are aimed to assist Cuba in teaching, research and Extension. The USDA-REE Chief Scientist, Dr. Cathie Woteki's requests of the Land-Grant University partnership are to: 1) Further strengthen the intramural-extramural interdependence; 2) Address inequities at the 1890s, 1994s, and HSIs; and 3) Carry a unified message when seeking USDA-REE funding increases. Additionally, Dr. Woteki asked that CES and ESS take note of the FDA's Food Modernization Act (FMA). This act impacts states and the states will need help from the land-grant universities for scientific expertise and outreach efforts.