



Message from the Chair



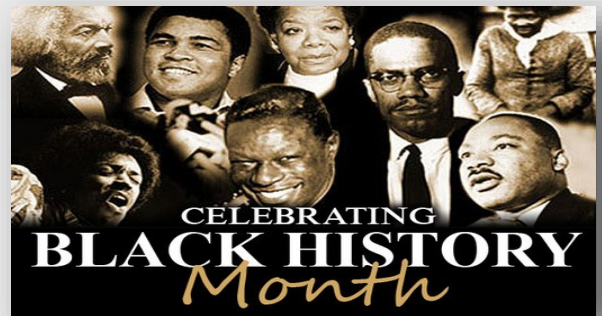
ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

I hope the first month of the year went by well for you. For those of you who have not had extreme weather, I am happy for you. I look forward to seeing you the first week of March for the AHS/CARET meeting. As usual, if you have agenda items you would like added to the ARD agenda for the Tuesday night meeting, please email to let us know. We look forward to reports from newly appointed ad hoc committees and will have robust discussions on our advocacy work and commitment to collaborative initiatives. I think I speak on behalf of all of you in congratulating the universities and their scientists and extension faculty for the great work they did as members of the first ARD-funded consortium which focused on food safety. The investigators on this initiative submitted a proposal for a Capacity Building Grant and they were successful in acquiring \$600,000. Together they have published several refereed publications and are planning a mini symposium to be held next month at the ARS Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland. More information about this conference is seen below. I hope you are able to attend. The ARD consortium initiative primarily provides seed money so that our investigators are better equipped to go after much greater funding. That is indeed how this Food Safety team saw it, and they should not only be congratulated but receive our sincerest thanks.

Sincerely,

James O. Garner,
ARD Chair



An Invitation to You: 1890 Food Safety Consortium Symposium March 24 -26, 2015

Location: USDA-ARS-Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Bldg. 005, Room 021, Beltsville, MD 20705

Purpose: To highlight the accomplishments from current 1890 research, education, and extension projects related to food safety, including water quality, and to provide opportunities to network and to develop collaborative initiatives among the 1890 University Food Safety Consortium participants and the USDA-ARS scientists in future activities.

Expected Outcome: Development of research, education, and outreach collaborations among the 1890 University faculty and students, USDA-ARS, other academic and industry scientists, and participating institutions involved in a wide range of food safety activities and water quality, as it impacts food safety. Additional emphasis will be on developing additional opportunities to provide undergraduate/graduate students and faculty internships at USDA-ARS and other academic institutions as well as at industry operations.

Lodging: **Website:** <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasgb-greenbelt-marriott/> ; <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/college-park/wascb/hoteldetail> ; <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/maryland/hampton-inn-college-park-WASCLHX/index.html>

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ARD UPDATES



NIFA Announces Funding for Experiential Learning Opportunities for Undergraduates

The Undergraduate Research and Extension Experiential Learning Fellowships program promotes research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills. The experiential learning initiative for undergraduates will provide opportunities for **undergraduate students at colleges and universities**, including those from underrepresented ethnicities and economically disadvantaged groups at minority-serving institutions, junior and community colleges, and other universities to:

- obtain hands-on experience at land-grant and non-land-grant universities and USDA laboratories;
- obtain training to join the agricultural workforce or pursue graduate studies in food, agriculture, natural resources and the human sciences; and
- receive the strong mentoring and research and/or extension experiences required to be successful as upperclassmen and graduate students in the food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences.

Letter of Intent Deadline - February 18, 2015 (5:00 p.m., ET)

Application Deadline – May 6, 2015 (5:00 p.m., ET)

(Awards are available for up to \$300,000 for project periods of up to 3 years; up to a maximum of 30 undergraduate fellows may be supported under a single award.)

For more information please refer to the **FY 2015 Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative Request for Applications** available at: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri.html>

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

USDA announced the availability of more than \$18 million in funding to help educate, mentor and enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. This support is available through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP), administered by USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program awards grants to organizations implementing programs to train beginning farmers and ranchers, including workshops, educational teams, training, and technical assistance throughout the United States. Fiscal Year 2015 applications for BFRDP are **due March 13, 2015**. At least five percent of the funds must go to projects that serve military veteran beginning farmers and ranchers, and at least five percent to projects that serve socially-disadvantaged, limited-resource, or farmworker audiences. All applicants are required to provide funds or in-kind support from non-federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to 25 percent of the federal funds requested. Additional information about USDA support for new farmers and ranchers is available at www.usda.gov/newfarmers

