



# Message from the



# ARD UPDATES

**Dear Colleagues:**

In the interim since the last *ARD Updates*, the Executive Committee met here in Greensboro to plan for the implementation of our primary 2014 endeavors: the 125th celebratory events, the summer meeting with the University of the Virgin Islands, the collaborative opportunities with Embrapa, better reporting of our impacts and outcomes, ESCOP/ESS and NIFA initiatives, and the continuance of the funding for ARD consortia. We will report these deliberations, ideas and suggestions in Charleston, SC after our joint meeting with the deans and AEA. If you have not already done so, please send your registration form to Dr. L.W. Lyons and also, reserve your room at the Charleston hotel. The joint meeting begins on January 27th and the ARD will meet as soon as the joint session concludes. A tentative agenda will be sent soon. I wish for all of you a magnificent 2014, both personally and professionally. Hope your holiday season was great!

Sincerely,

Shirley Hymon-Parker



**Joint meeting of Deans, ARD & AEA**  
 Beginning Jan. 27, 2014  
 Embassy Suites, North Charleston, SC  
 1-800-362-2779  
 (reserve under Assoc. of Ext. Adm.)

***NIFA Announces RFA for the Foundational Program***

**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational Program**

The AFRI Foundational Program is offered to support research grants in the six AFRI priority areas to continue building a foundation of knowledge critical for solving current and future societal challenges. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. Single-function Research Projects, multi-function Integrated Projects and **Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants** are expected to address one of the Program Area Priorities (see Foundational Program RFA for details). Applications found at [http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html?p\\_p\\_id=grantsdownloadpackage\\_WAR\\_grantsdownloadpackageportlet&p\\_p\\_lifecycle=0&p\\_p\\_state=normal&p\\_p\\_mode=view&p\\_p\\_col\\_id=column-1&p\\_p\\_col\\_pos=1&p\\_p\\_col\\_count=2&grantsdownloadpackage\\_WAR\\_grantsdownloadpackageportlet\\_mvPat\\_h=%2Fdownload.jsp?id=191296&search=-2](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html?p_p_id=grantsdownloadpackage_WAR_grantsdownloadpackageportlet&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_pos=1&p_p_col_count=2&grantsdownloadpackage_WAR_grantsdownloadpackageportlet_mvPat_h=%2Fdownload.jsp?id=191296&search=-2). Or just go to the NIFA website

<b>Solicitation Date (Opening)</b>	December 23, 2013
<b>Letter of Intent Due Date</b>	All Program Areas require a Letter of Intent. See RFA for details.
<b>Due Date (Closing)</b> <i>See RFA. Earliest deadline date -</i>	September 30, 2014
<b>Estimated Total Program Funding</b>	\$82,000,000.00
<b>Range of Awards</b>	\$0.00 to \$500,000.00
<b>Cost Sharing Requirements</b>	For equipment grants and if commodity specific. See RFA for details.
<b>For More Information Contact</b>	<a href="#">Effie Baldwin</a>
<b>Funding Opportunity Number</b>	<a href="#">USDA-NIFA-AFRI-004412</a>
<b>CFDA Number</b>	10.310 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Please visit the ARD website- [www.umes.edu/ard](http://www.umes.edu/ard) or contact us using [cbbrooks@umes.edu](mailto:cbbrooks@umes.edu)

# ARD UPDATES



## Early Year Opportunities

The Hubert Humphrey Fellowship program has recently announced the [Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders](#). According to the announcement, it is a new flagship program of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and will bring 500 young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa, aged 25 to 35, to the United States beginning in 2014 for academic coursework and leadership training and will create unique opportunities in Africa for Fellows to put new skills to practical use in leading organizations, communities, and countries. Applications are **due on January 27, 2014**. <https://www.humphreyfellowship.org/>

## Fellowships for Agricultural Research at U.S. Universities

The Norman E. Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program (Borlaug LEAP) offers fellowships for graduate students from developing countries for **agricultural research at universities in the USA**. The program currently invites applications from citizens of USAID-assisted countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Each research project is coordinated by a university in the student's home country, a university in the USA, and a mentor in the CGIAR. The application deadline is **01 May 2014**. <http://borlaugleap.org/>

## **Please distribute to your student networks!**

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) works to promote HBCU excellence, innovation, and sustainability. In 2014 the Initiative will recognize current HBCU students for their dedication to academics, leadership and civic engagement.

**Nomination period December 16, 2013 – January 10, 2014**

### ELIGIBILITY AND RULES

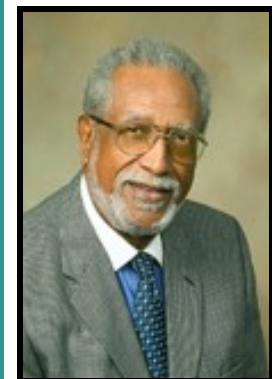
1. Nominee must be a **current** undergraduate or graduate student at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).
2. Only **completed** applications will be considered. This includes **signed nomination form, unofficial transcripts, short essay, resume and endorsement**. (If you do not have the application form that was sent in earlier emails, please request the application from [cbbrooks@umes.edu](mailto:cbbrooks@umes.edu))
3. Submissions entered past the due date will **not** be acknowledged.

Applications must be submitted by, **11:59 p.m., EST on January 10, 2014** Please submit application to: [oswhi-hbcu@ed.gov](mailto:oswhi-hbcu@ed.gov)

## **Nominate an ALL-STAR today!**

### *Dr. Norris Edney Begins Serving As Acting President at Alcorn State University*

Norris Edney, former Interim President of Alcorn State University, begins serving as Acting President of the institution December 27, 2013. He succeeds Dr. M. Christopher Brown II, who served as president from January 2011 until recently. Dr. Edney served as Interim President of the university from February 2010 to January 2011, which was prior to the appointment of Dr. Brown. Dr. Edney was serving as the Interim Dean of the School of Nursing, which is located on the Natchez Campus of Alcorn State University.



Dr. Edney started to work for Alcorn as biology instructor in 1963 and worked his way up to senior leadership positions. Throughout his career, he has served the University in various capacities including dean of Graduate Studies, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and chairman of the Department of Biology. He also worked as director for the Natchez Nursing Program from initiation of the program thru the second accreditation cycle. Dr. Edney has an associates degree from Natchez Junior College, an undergraduate degree in biology from Tougaloo College, a master of science teaching degree from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Co., and a doctorate degree in conservation from Michigan State University