



Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Please visit the ARD website- www.umes.edu/ard or contact us using cbbrooks@umes.edu

Dear Colleagues:

Please contact your Representative and Senators and let them know how grateful your institution is for these results.

Land-Grant NIFA Lines that are 1890 Priorities (Millions)

Priority	FY15	Enacted	FY 16 Final
Evans-Allen (1890s Research)		52.485	54.185
1890 Institutions Extension		43.920	45.620
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry		33.961	33.961
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)		325.000	350.000
1890 Institutions Capacity Building Grants		19.336	19.336
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education		22.667	24.667
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions		19.730	19.730
EFNEP		67.934	67.934

AFRI – The bill includes a \$25 million increase for AFRI above the 2015 appropriation.

1890 Institutions – Funding increases of \$1.7 million each for Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension programs are intended to offset the addition of Central State University as an eligible institution for funds for 1890 universities.

Crop Protection/Pest Management – The Committees provided funding for the Crop Protection/Pest Management program under “Integrated Activities” and included a prohibition in statute to prevent the assessment of indirect costs for extension grants awarded under the program.

Sincerely,

Govind Kannan, ARD Chair

Dr. Makola Abdullah Returns to the 1890s as President of Virginia State University

On February 1, 2016 Virginia State University will welcome its next President, Dr. Makola Abdullah. A Chicago native, he succeeds interim President Pamela Hammond and leaves his position as Provost at Bethune Cookman University to accept his new role as VSU CEO. Abdullah received his bachelor’s degree from Howard University and his master’s and doctorate degrees in Engineering from Northwestern University at the young age of 24. He also previously had served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida Memorial University. We in the ARD remember Dr. Abdulla when he was among our cherished membership as the research director from Florida A&M University and we welcome him back to the 1890 Family.



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International Opportunity

The U.S./China Scientific Exchange Program is seeking U.S. training providers to design and deliver diverse training programs for Chinese agricultural professionals in the following focus areas:

Variety Protection Patent
Agricultural Cooperation on Province/State Level between the United States and China
Legislation for Farmland Quality and Improvement in Farmland Quality
Technology Mode of Silage Corn Production and Processing
Talent Cultivation System for Agricultural Scientific Innovation
China - U.S. Agricultural enterprise cooperation
Agricultural Products quality and safety supervision
Safe Production Technology of Agricultural Machinery



Application Deadline: January 30, 2016

Direct inquiries about this program to:

Telephone: (202) 720-9845

Email: David.White@fas.usda.gov
Francisco.DelPozo@fas.usda.gov

Website: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/scientific-cooperation-exchange-program>



Dr. Brian O. Hemphill, president of West Virginia State University has announced that he will be transitioning to a new role at Radford University as the 7th President effective July 1, 2016. The 1890 Community joins with WVSU in our disappointment in losing Dr. Hemphill but congratulate him and wish him and his family well on this new journey.

Meeting Reminders:

ARD Meeting—Hyatt Regency Atlanta: February 9—12, 2016
USDA/1890 Orientation—March 1, 2016 Whitten Building, Washington, DC
AHS/CARET Meeting—March 6—8, 2016, Westin Alexandria, VA

A Message from Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA Director

Colleagues in NIFA and our partner institutions:

Below highlights an important publication on a critically important topic for our nation. Unfortunately, however, NIFA learned of the same only after the publication came out, and particularly through the news media.

A few things to consider: It would be appreciated if the deans and directors can remind their faculty and scientists to alert us to such publications ahead of time, so we can be aware of the same and trigger a social media campaign from here in DC, thus amplifying the message in the public domain. Also, please remind the project directors to incorporate the link to funding provided by NIFA (or other agencies) in the press releases and other media releases.

A ground-breaking study that maps native bee species across the US was funded by NIFA's Specialty Crops Research Initiative and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1517685113. This study is a major milestone for the National Strategy and the Pollinator Research Action Plan developed by the President's Pollinator Task Force. Highlights include:

Researchers estimated wild bee abundance across the US. by creating an innovative model which combined data on land use, bee populations and habitat,

Wild bee abundance declined in 23% of the U.S. land area between 2008 and 2013 including 11 states (Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Louisiana)

An estimated 39% of crop lands, in 139 key counties face a potential 'mismatch' between a rising demand for pollination and falling supply of wild bees.

If losses continue, the problem could increase costs for farmers, and negatively impact crop production.

The study underscores the significance of the National Strategy which coordinates federal agency efforts to restore healthy populations of pollinators and the habitats that support them.