



# Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

### Dear Colleagues:

As we have been seeking sponsorships and discussing expanded partnerships with government agencies and the private sector, the most interest shown thus far is from the private sector and their interest has been related to the MEA Center concept paper. MEA stands for Virtual Center to **M**otivate and **E**ducate for **A**chievement. The over-arching objective of this proposed 1890 Virtual Center is to support and enhance the college-going culture and the activities that will shape students' beliefs and confidence, not only about college success, but also success in life. Examples of programs that would be funded include First Generation to College, Workforce Pipeline Centers, STEAM Academies, Leadership Academies, 4-H Stem Programs, and the Civic Entrepreneurial Academy to focus on the war on poverty. Interest in participating as potential funders include Monsanto, CHS, and Dow AgroSciences. In July a representative group from the ARD will visit Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis for the Dow AgroSciences BEST Summit. The theme of the summit is "Uniting Resources for a Diverse Scientific Workforce." Additionally, Monsanto, NIFA and CHS leaders have asked to come to our summer ARD meeting to engage in talks about the aspects of the MEA Center related to workforce pipeline partnering. When the ARD meets on July 7, 2014 this will be a topic of discussion. Please bring your ideas on what we can and should be asking our potential partners to do with us as we seek to aggressively tackle this important challenge of increasing the diversity in the US scientific workforce.

Sincerely,

Shirley Hymon-Parker



### Great Example of Regional Collaboration:

The six land grant institutions that serve the Delmarva Peninsula have formed a partnership to foster collaborative research that addresses major challenges in agriculture and natural resources facing the region. To this end, the universities involved offer a seed grant program to strengthen collaborative research and provide a springboard for investigators to obtain long-term sustainable funding. The RFP was developed by representatives from each of the six participating universities:

- ◆ Delaware State University
- ◆ University of Delaware
- ◆ University of Maryland College Park
- ◆ University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- ◆ Virginia Polytechnic and State University
- ◆ Virginia State University



For 2014, a \$20,000 commitment has been made by each of the six deans of the partnering institutions, making up to \$120,000 available for collaborative projects. *Funds committed are not transferred among institutions, but set aside by each for use in the program.* Hence, a project must include a cooperator from a particular institution to access a portion of the \$20,000 made available by it. Continued support in future years is based on availability of funds from each institution.

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



## *2014 RFP for 1890 Facilities Grant Program*

The 2014 request for applications for the 1890 Facilities Grant Program (renewals) has been released. You may visit the following links to access the documents and respond accordingly. Please note the application closing date is July 11, 2014. This date must be adhered to in order for NIFA to conduct a peer review panel and execute the awards by the end of this fiscal year (September 30, 2014). If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the following:

- ◆ Edwin Lewis [elewis@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:elewis@nifa.usda.gov)
- ◆ Beverly Samuel [bsamuel@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:bsamuel@nifa.usda.gov)
- ◆ Lindell Williams [lgwilliams@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:lgwilliams@nifa.usda.gov)
- ◆ Garland Robertson [grobertson@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:grobertson@nifa.usda.gov)



### *Logo selected:*



125 Years of Providing Access  
and Enhancing Opportunities

*The logo and tagline for the 2015 Celebration of the signing of the Second Morrill Act was approved by the 1890 Presidents/Chancellors. Guidelines for campus usage will be in the toolkit that is being developed by subcommittees of the 125th Anniversary Steering Committee.*

### **USDA-NIFA is seeking stakeholder input to the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program for 2015.**

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program assists new farmers and ranchers through competitive grants to collaborations of organizations that use the grant funds to offer education, outreach, mentoring, and technical assistance programs to beginning farmers and ranchers. Please go to the NIFA website for further instructions.

### *Recently Opened Grants*

#### **Renewable Resources Extension Act-National Focus Fund Pilot Projects (RREA-NFF)**

The purpose of the grant program for FY 2014 is to provide funds for pilot projects that: (1) address emerging forest and rangeland resource issues; (2) have national or regional relevancy; or (3) develop new and innovative projects that can be replicated at other institutions.

#### **Who Is Eligible to Apply**

- ◆ 1862 Land-Grant Institutions
- ◆ 1890 Land-Grant Institutions

No letter of intent is required

Closing Date: July 16, 2014

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$300,000

Range of Award Funding: \$0 - \$100,000

Percent of Applications funded last year: 40%

No cost sharing required

Contact: Eric Norland ([enorland@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:enorland@nifa.usda.gov))

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-OP-004541

CFDA Number: 10.500

