



Message from the



ARD UPDATES

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

Dear Colleagues:

It seems that things are moving along nicely for the 2015 activities commemorating the 125th Anniversary celebration of the signing of the Second Morrill Act. Below is a picture of the Library of Congress, the facility where we are awaiting word that we may hold our convocation, inside in the Coolidge Auditorium, on July 16, 2015. This photo of the Library of Congress is the Jefferson Building. Right across the street, and connected underground is the Library's Madison Building and we have requested the use of its Montpelier Room to host our reception and exhibits on July 15th, 2015. It is hoped that students from your institutions will man the exhibits and talk to Congressional delegations. Having these events at the Library of Congress will be an educational experience that will be extremely memorable for them. We will keep you informed on whether or not we get these facilities. But we are hopeful.

Please do not forget to respond to requests for tentative numbers of individuals from your campuses who will be attending the events in 2015 in Washington, DC. This is early, but contracting with a hotel requires one year in advance to reserve rooming and meeting space.

Sincerely,

Shirley Hymon-Parker



Congratulations to Drs. Reddy and Taylor

Secretary Vilsack has appointed members to serve on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board. **Dr. Robert Taylor, at Florida A&M University**, has been re-appointed to represent National Crop, Soil, Agronomy, Horticulture, or Weed Science Societies and **Dr. Chandra Reddy, of Tennessee State University** has been re-appointed to represent *1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities*.

Capacity Building Grants Project Directors' Conference

The 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants Program (CBGP) **Project Directors (PD) Conference** will be held on **September 16 – 17, 2014** at **USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture** in Washington, DC. All PDs are required to attend one (1) National PD meeting during the tenure of their grant. PDs who received 1890 CBGP awards in **FYs 2010 through 2012** will receive emails to encourage their participation.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss project updates/results, project and grant management, opportunities for collaboration, opportunities to enhance dissemination of end products/results and the future directions for research, education and extension.

Please notify Dr. Edwin Lewis by email (elewis@nifa.usda.gov) of your intention to participate in the PD conference. Additional information will be forthcoming, including: the official registration form; solicitation of presenters; guidance for the poster session and hotel information.

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Rankins Named President of Alcorn State University



On March 4, 2014 Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr. was named President of Alcorn State University. An Alcorn State University alumnus, Dr. Rankins had been serving as deputy commissioner for academic and student affairs for the Institutions of Higher Learning. He served as Acting President for Mississippi Valley State University for one year, beginning in November 2012. A native of Greenville, Miss., Dr. Rankins holds an undergraduate degree in agricultural economics from Alcorn State University and a master's and doctorate degree in weed science, both from Mississippi State University (MSU). In addition to holding degrees in agriculture from land-grant institutions, Dr. Rankins has also worked at MSU, where he served as a tenure-track assistant professor, tenured associate professor, extension specialist and assistant vice president intern for academic affairs. While at MSU, he taught several undergraduate and graduate level courses in the Department of Plant and Soil Science. His research on topics in weed science has been published in numerous refereed journals, educational outreach publications, newsletters, annual reports, bulletins and proceedings abstracts.

Congratulations to Dr. Cynthia Smith—AAFCS 2014 Distinguished Service Award Recipient



Dr. Cynthia Smith has been selected to receive the 2014 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). The DSA is the most prestigious award of the family and consumer sciences profession and serves as a tribute to outstanding AAFCS members for their professional achievements and sustained leadership. Dr. Smith is a Professor and Head of the FCS Department at Alabama A&M University. Her significant accomplishments in higher education instruction span the range of curriculum development, teaching innovations, publications and mentoring. Her initiatives in grantsmanship have resulted in a continuous flow of grant funding from 1981 to 2011.

Funding Opportunity:

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP) - Applications are due by June 12, 2014

BFRDP Grants will provide education, training, technical assistance and outreach for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and managers of non-industrial private forest land for those who have been farming 10 years or less and those who aim to start. Approximately \$19.2 million is available and **at least 5% will be allocated to programs and services for limited-resource and socially-disadvantaged beginning farmers, ranchers and farmworkers. Another 5% will be for programs and services for military veteran farmers/ranchers.** Webinars on this program are scheduled for April 30 and May 6 at 2:00 PM EDT. RFP is <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/beginningfarmersandranchers.cfm> and for information about the webinars go to <http://www.Nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html>.

No letter of intent is required but there is a minimum of 25% in cost sharing required. For more information contact Jill Auburn (jauburn@nifa.usda.gov) Funding Opportunity Number is USDA-NIFA-BFR-004518.

National Impact Database is Available

The new Research Impacts database is ready to be populated with impact statements. Links for authorized personnel to login to the databases are located at the bottom of each page in the portal. Once logged in, the user should see a tab labeled 'Impacts'. Based on their access rights they will have the options to both add/edit impact statements and search the database or only search. **This portal contains information on the land-grant system and availability for the public to search/sort impact statements.** The URL for the new portal is <http://www.landgrantimpacts.org>.

