



Message from the Chair



Association of
1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

The 2017 Symposium Steering Committee held its first meeting in Atlanta earlier this month. Much has already been accomplished and the second page of this newsletter summarizes progress and information thus far. Additionally the House Appropriations Committee met and approved the FY 2017 Agriculture Appropriations bill which funds the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and other USDA Agencies. The spending bill would give the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative a \$25 million boost, and all other core funding priorities would remain at FY 2016 levels. The increase to the Capacity Building Grant Program for Centers of Excellence initiatives was not provided by the House. **Next Steps:** The FY 2017 Agriculture Appropriations Bill is not expected to be considered on the House floor until after May 15 at the earliest due to a House budget rule. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture will meet sometime in the coming weeks to begin work on their version of the FY 2017 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,

	FY2016 Enacted	FY2017 Requested	FY2017 House
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	54.185	58.000	54.185
Capacity Building Grants for 1890 Institutions	19.336	20.410	19.336
1890s Capacity Coordination Initiative	0.000	10.000	0.000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	350.000	375.000	375.000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	45.620	48.350	45.620
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	19.730	21.703	19.730

Dr. Conrad Bonsi Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from International Crop Research Association



Dr. Conrad Bonsi, has been presented the highest honor awarded by the International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC). He was given the Lifetime Achievement Award, at the 17th triennial meeting of ISTRC in Nanning, China. The ISTRC meeting was held in conjunction with the First World Congress of Root and Tuber Crops and included participants from Africa, Asia, North and South America, the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, Australia and Europe. More than 600 participants presented papers and dialogued on cassava, sweet potato, yam, taro and potato.

Bonsi's scientific contributions include developing and releasing the first sweet potato cultivar sponsored by NASA for use on space missions. He developed yellow and purple cultivars of sweet potato roots for use as food in the USA and Africa, high dry matter roots for use as biofuels, and leaves for use as a green vegetable.

Bonsi served as secretary-treasurer of ISTRC from 1994 to 2013. He has participated in all of the triennial meetings since 1985 including the following locations: Guadeloupe, Thailand, Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Japan, Tanzania, India, Peru and China.

Please visit the ARD website-

www.umes.edu/ard

or contact us using cbbrooks@umes.edu

ARD UPDATES

USDA-ARS Faculty Research Fellowships for Capacity Building at 1890 Land-Grant Universities

Application Deadline: May 13, 2016. See the ARD Website for application information (link is: https://www.umes.edu/cms300uploadedFiles/1-AcademicAffairs/Agriculture_and_Natural_Sciences/_Research/ARD/FY%202016%20Program%20Information%20FR%20Fellowships.pdf) or look at left of website homepage www.umes.edu/ard. This is not a Grants.gov application process and the applications must be developed jointly between the 1890 applicant and the ARS RL host.

This new program offers research and training opportunities to career-track faculty at 1890s by providing opportunities to: work alongside ARS scientists in established research programs, develop new research skills and techniques, co-author research papers from successful collaborations, and to collaboratively develop scientifically competitive research. A maximum of three applications per institution is allowed.

Applicants must have been employed at the 1890 at least five years in his/her current position and is approved for fellowship leave. Other important details are found at the above website.

Symposium Updates

The 2017 ARD Research Symposium will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta at 265 Peachtree Street, NE on April 1 – 4, 2017. The 5th is a travel day since the closing banquet takes place on the night of April 4, 2017.

Early registration begins soon and is **\$500** per participant. Early registration ends November 11, 2016

Regular registration extends from November 12, 2016 – February 24, 2017 and is **\$525**.

Late registration is February 25 – March 24, 2017 and is **\$575**.

Onsite registration is \$600.

Registration can be paid by purchase orders or check and there will be no refunds.

The new symposium website is under construction and will be completed by the end of May. Registration forms and symposium details will be available at this website.

Deadline for Abstracts for posters and oral presentations will be November 18, 2016. Instructions for formatting and electronic submission will be on the symposium website. Also on the website is the evaluation instrument that will be used to judge the competitive poster and oral presentations. This information is helpful in developing the presentation content and should be used to prepare students for their presentations. Abstract guidelines must be strictly followed and if not followed, the submission will be rejected. For each campus, abstract guideline adherence is the responsibility of the research director or his /her designee.

The application deadline for the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award is January 20, 2017. The applications will be evaluated by external reviewers, i.e. National Program Leaders at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Each 1890 campus is invited to display a university exhibit at no cost. Additional exhibits and non-1890 exhibitors must pay the **fee of \$2,000 by February 17, 2017**. **All exhibitors**, including the 1890s, must submit the Exhibit Registration Form by the deadline of February 17th. See the symposium website for more information.

Beginning at 1 PM on April 1st students should begin to place the poster presentations on the boards. Those with exhibits and non-competitive posters will have Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to pin up posters and assemble displays. See website for details.

Judges for poster and oral competitions and Session Moderators will be needed and each research director is asked to send in names and contact information for those willing to serve in those capacities.