



Message from the Chair



Dear Colleagues:

Since this will be my last newsletter message as your chair, I wanted to use this opportunity to thank you for entrusting me to lead this beloved family of colleagues for my two year cycle. All of us are understandingly hesitant and think long and hard before agreeing to take on leadership roles that last as long as two years I am sure, since you have so many responsibilities on your campuses. But there is tremendous value in serving the ARD...much is learned, stronger friendship ties are made, and the depth of one's understanding of all that is done for and within the land-grant community is greatly enhanced. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your chair. I am proud of our 1890 institutions, our mission, our accomplishments and our heartfelt dedication to "providing access and enhancing opportunities." My service to 1890 Universities is a personal passion and I know the same is true for you. I promise to remain committed to contributing to the enhancement of our institutions as a loyal member of ARD, a member of the ARD Executive Committee, an ESS/ESCOPE officer and as a contributor to any other committee for which my talents are requested. Once more, thank you for allowing me to serve you and for your wonderful contributions in making our organization so effective.

Sincerely,

Shirley Hymon-Parker, Chair



ARD UPDATES

Monsanto and Council of 1890s' Student Leadership Program

In 2006, Monsanto announced a partnership with the Council of 1890 Land Grant Universities to host the first 1890 Student Leadership Event. Some participants were offered Internships and Co-op positions and the program aimed to help Monsanto build a pipeline of talent from these institutions. In the spring of 2007, Monsanto also established cotton and vegetable demonstrations with African American farmers and 1890s in four states, featuring Monsanto's latest technologies. These demonstrations are a platform to strengthen relationships and narrow the gap in technology adoption by African American growers. These two initiatives continue and The Leadership Event for 2014 took place from October 19-21st with twenty students participating. Students were invited to the Monsanto World Headquarters in St. Louis, MO to participate in a leadership development program and to interview for Internship and Co-op opportunities. Travel and accommodations were provided by Monsanto.



Monsanto's 1890 Student Leadership Event.

Students wishing to apply to this program for 2016 can do so at: <http://jobs.monsanto.com/various-locations/internship-and-co-op/jobid6225256-monsanto-1890-student-leadership-event-internship-and-co-op-opportunities-for-2016-jobs>. Students represented in the 2014 event and pictured to the left were from AAMU, DSU, FAMU, NCAT, PVAM, SCSU, SU, TSU, and VSU.

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

ARD UPDATES



Dr. P.S. Benepal Retires

After 52 years of loyal service to agriculture and the land-grant community, Kansas State University, Virginia State University, and NIFA, Dr. P.S. Benepal retired September 30, 2014. He served as the director of research at Virginia State University and as the Secretary for the Association of Research Directors of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. Benepal was devoted to the building of the research capacity of the 1890 Institutions. He was the second person to serve as the NIFA director of 1890 Programs and accomplished several milestones under his leadership. During his tenure, NIFA saw the growth in funding for the 1890 base programs – 1890 Facilities Program, the Evans-Allen Research Program, and the 1890 Extension Programs. These programs helped the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions become leaders in human capital development, in relevant and cutting-edge research, and service to diverse populations, particularly underserved and limited resource communities nationwide. Dr. Benepal was also one of the recipients of the ARD's highest award, the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award. We thank Dr. Benepal for his many years of outstanding service to the 1890 Community and wish him a wonderful journey throughout his retirement years.

NC RESEARCH CAMPUS SEEKS FASTER GROWTH AFTER SLOW START (Excerpts from article by Ely Portillo, *Charlotte Observer*)

Dole Foods owner, 91 year old David Murdock, opened the N.C. Research Campus in 2008. He bought and imploded the former Pillowtex mill complex after it closed in 2003. But research has been slow to get off the ground, campus officials acknowledge. The recession hampered growth and dashed plans by some big corporations such as PepsiCo to open labs. In October of this year Murdock committed \$15 million a year in perpetuity to shore up the core lab's finances and hire a new director with a worldwide profile to oversee and direct the campus. The aim is to be an institute that is really at the edge of nutritional science." While eight North Carolina universities and a handful of food corporations, including Dole, General Mills and Monsanto, are conducting research on site, the campus hasn't met predictions of 200 companies located there. The campus has created about 1,000 jobs, officials say, but remains behind initial projections of 2,200 jobs within its first few years. Murdock, whose net worth is estimated at \$3 billion, has spent \$800 million to build the campus.

The N.C. Research Campus isn't one school with a single focus. Rather, it's a conglomeration of different research centers, professors and companies, all studying different nutrition-related problems. For example, North Carolina A&T has a center that studies mold, food contamination and uses for wine byproducts. UNC-Chapel Hill's Nutrition Research Institute studies the genetic basis for differences in metabolic diseases, and the N.C. State University Plants for Human Health Institute investigates health benefits from foods such as berries and walnuts.

Dr. Leonard Williams is the director of NCA&T's Center for Excellence in Post-Harvest Technologies and as the ARD hosts the ESS/SAES/ARD meeting in Charlotte, NC in September, 2015 a planned trip to Kannapolis is being investigated.

The NC Research Campus (NCR) is located in the city of Kannapolis, just north of Charlotte. →



Dr. Goetsch of Langston University Receives Award

Dr. Arthur Goetsch received the Langston University Outstanding Scholar Award at the 2014 Fall Faculty Institute. As the current Research Leader for the American Institute for Goat Research, he has made huge strides in the areas of scholarship and international work during his 16 year tenure at Langston University. He was recognized for this award because of his remarkable research output, numerous publications, ability to secure grants, and continuous commitment to support Langston University's presence in their international program.

CONGRATULATIONS Dr. Goetsch!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!