

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

As the end of 2011 approaches I offer to all of you my sincerest appreciation for an extremely productive year. Your outstanding cooperation and dedication to the productivity and effectiveness of the association has been strong and constant, thus many successful ventures have been completed and I am particularly delighted about the progress being made in the development of an ARD facilitated consortium.

On November 28-29, 2011 in Atlanta, GA almost all of our campuses were involved in the planning of the process to be used as we go forth to fund seed grants for one or more theme areas selected by you. Prior to the winter meeting in January, each Director will receive the goals and objectives that the ARD has determined as feasible for consortium development. Thereafter the first meeting for scientists will be held and they will initiate proposal writing for the seed grant proposal competition.

To all of my dear friends, I wish for you and your family a blessed, restful and thoroughly enjoyable holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville in January.

Sincerely,

Dyremple Marsh, ARD Chair



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

Meeting Reminders/Notices

- ARD Winter Meeting**—January 18-20, 2012 in Jacksonville, FL
- Consortium Planning Meeting**- Greensboro, NC TBD
- AHS/CARET** at Washington, DC Key-bridge Marriott Hotel (possibly add 1.5 days) February 26-29, 2012
- AEA Conference in Memphis**—June 24-28, 2012
- ARD Summer Meeting in Brazil**-TBD



*The Association of 1890 Research Directors, Inc. recognized Dr. Orlando McMeans for his outstanding leadership and service to the Board on Agriculture Assembly of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities as 2010-2011 Chair of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) at the November ARD meeting in San Francisco. **Thank you 'O'***

Congratulations and best wishes to our dear friend and colleague

Dr. Kirkland E. Mellad

Upon his retirement from Southern University and A&M College

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Congratulations to Dr. Alton B. Johnson

Dr. Alton B. Johnson assumed the post of Associate Dean and Administrator, Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University College of Agriculture and Human Sciences on October 1. He most recently served as the interim assistant dean of research in the School of Agriculture, Research, Extension and Applied Sciences at Alcorn State University (ASU) in Mississippi. During his sixteen year career at Alcorn, he was also the interim research director, chief research officer, and associate professor of agriculture.

While at ASU, Johnson served as principal investigator or co-investigator in securing close to \$5 million in federal funds to conduct natural resources work. Dr. Johnson was also the director of the Mississippi River Research Center that was established to conduct research and public service activities to aid in improving Mississippi water resources. Dr. Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in General Agriculture from the University of Liberia in Monrovia, and a master's in Agronomy with a concentration in Soil and Water Management and Conservation from Mississippi State University. He received his Ph.D. in Agronomy with a concentration in Soil Physics from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Congress and the President Finalize the 2012 NIFA Budget

Research and Education Activities Enacted

Program	2011 Enacted	Final 2012
Evans Allen	\$50.898 M	\$50.898 M
1890 Extension	\$42.592 M	\$42.592 M
Hatch (1862 Research)	\$236.334 M	\$236.334 M
McIntire-Stennis	\$32.934 M	\$32.934 M
AFRI	\$264.470 M	\$264.470 M
1890 Facilities Program	\$19.730 M	\$19.730 M
1890 Capacity Building Grants	\$19.336 M	\$19.336 M
Smith Lever (1862 Extension)	\$293.911 M	\$294.000 M
EFNEP	\$67.934 M	\$67.934 M

VERY IMPORTANT CHANGE: The indirect cost recovery rate for NIFA's competitive programs is increased from 22% to 30% .

The language report from the Agriculture Budget conferees strongly encouraged USDA to fund only the highest priority agricultural research, as authorized by Congress and requested that the Department make recommendations regarding the consolidation of funding lines in AFRI's accounts in the President's budget for fiscal year 2013 and to work with interested individuals and organizations, including the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to do so.

