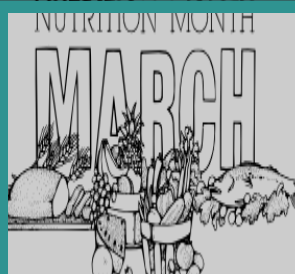


Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES



Dear Colleagues:

I was pleased to represent both Delaware State University and the Association of 1890 Research Directors when I visited both the Delaware Senator, Senator Tom Carper and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak at the Delaware Agriculture Industries annual dinner. When talking to Secretary Vilsak I thanked him for the support he has provided the 1890 Universities during his tenure, but also described our initiatives to establish one or two 1890 consortia related to national priorities to both Sec. Vilsak and Senator Carper. I indicated that we hope agencies within the USDA will provide financial support for our collaborative efforts and the Secretary is open to discussing this further.

Additionally, with the invitation from Dr. Kofi Boateng, Dr. Kwame Garcia of the University of the VI, and Dr. Louis Petersen, Commission of Agriculture of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Drs. Teferi Tsegaye, Jim Tidwell, Henry Brooks, Steve Meredith, Orlando McMeans, Ulyses Toledo, Conrad Bonsi, Carolyn Brooks, Charles Byers and I met with research and extension faculty and administrators and the Governor of the Virgin Islands to discuss possible partnerships and to help them evaluate their annual Food and Agriculture Fair in St. Croix. During the opening ceremony of the fair, and before numerous dignitaries and distinguished guests, Fort Valley State University was singled out for deep appreciation for providing one of the St. Croix high school students with a scholarship. It is hoped that the 1890 universities will consider developing an MOU with UVI St. Croix to offer at least one scholarship each to promising Virgin Island High School students (as they are U.S. citizens.)

Sincerely,

Dyremples Marsh, ARD Chair

Below are Dr. Marsh, the VI Governor, Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr. and Dr. Petersen, the Agriculture Commissioner.



ARD UPDATES



Task Force Meeting Held at Kentucky State University



KSU has strong aquaculture program.

Kentucky State University served as the extremely gracious host campus for the USDA/1890 Task Force Meeting on February 13-15, 2012. The attendees were warmly welcomed, found the meetings to be very productive and were treated to tours of the exciting research programs on campus. All were greatly impressed by the talented students who provided musical entertainment during the President's Dinner. Much of the meeting entailed hearing reports and updates on USDA/1890 Partnerships such as the 1890 Virtual Strike Team Concept, National Scholars Program and the Program Liaisons initiative. Presentations were provided by the representatives from Rural Development, Foreign Agriculture Service, Food and Nutrition Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Federal Excess Property Program. **Dr. Mary E. Sias, Dr. Kimberly Holmes and the KSU team** are offered

sincerest thanks, not only for such a well planned and productive meeting, but also for the warm hospitality received by all. As members of the 1890 Family we are all proud that Kentucky State University has so much excellence to display as an institution of higher education with exceptional research and outreach programs to serve this nation and the global community.

Webinars and RFA Deadlines

There will be a Webinar on the FY 2012 **1890 Capacity Building Grants Program** RFA on **Tuesday, March 6 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM (EST)**. The webinar access information is: 1-888-858-2144; **Participant Code: 1464175** To join the meeting: <http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/cbg2012/>

The **1890 Facilities Grant Program** FY 2012 RFA has now been posted and is available on the NIFA website. The application deadline is May 4, 2012. NIFA Funding Opportunity Page: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/1890facilitiesgrantsprogram.cfm> . Grants.gov Synopsis Page: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=CcxcPPQWF8XyR2M4w2fhVGF0JbV8IMfznW5bxqhpJJYS83M6kNhQ!-16379161?oppld=148037&mode=VIEW> . Grants.gov Application Package: <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/UpdateOffer?id=101196>

FY2012 AFRI Stakeholder Listening Session Webinar for March is:

Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities, 3/28/2012, 2 – 3:30 p.m.,
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/ageconruralcommunities/>

Dates to Remember

Consortium Planning Meeting: March 12-14 , 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro, NC

USDA Workshop for the 1890 Universities: March 26-27, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel in Jacksonville, FL

AEA Conference: June 24-28, 2012 in Memphis, TN

ARD Summer Meeting: August 7-10, 2012