

We are focused on partnering with growers that reflect the communities

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

July 2023, Vol. 14, Issue 7

Message from the Chair DR. LOUIS WHITESIDES



Dear Friends and Colleagues:
The research directors, together with the 1890 deans of Agriculture and the 1890 Extension administrators, continue to communicate with our federal and state policymakers on major 1890 programs, research infrastructure and needed resources relative to the 2023 Farm Bill and the FY 2024 and FY 2025 federal appropriations (*see the article, "Kairo testifies before House Ag Sub-*

committee). Given the funding recommended by the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations markups last month, our efforts will intensify. In both markups, almost all USDA/NIFA programs, including the 1890 line items, were held at the FY 2023 funding levels. Level funding is definitely a setback in the 1890 system's quest for equity. The struggle continues in that 'equity delayed is equity denied.' In addition, neither the House nor the Senate has announced the timing for consideration of the FY 2024 funding appropriations by the full chambers.

Given this level of funding on the first markup, this month's meetings at the Joint Committee on Organization and Policy (COPs) and with the 1890 University Presidents and Chancellors will be crucial. We must focus all efforts on strategies, tactics, priority impacts and justifications for the land-grant system.

On a positive note, last month, U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and U.S. Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC-12), Marilyn Strickland (D-WA-10), and Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA-02), introduced bicameral legislation that would increase the number of authorized centers of excellence (COEs) at 1890 land-grant institutions to 10. The **1890s Advancing and Building Leadership and Excellence Opportunity Act of 2023**, known as the **ENABLE Opportunity Act of 2023**, would add four new centers of excellence, focusing on climate change, forestry resilience and conservation, food safety, bioprocessing and value-added agriculture and trans-

See Whitesides on Page 3

Kairo testifies before House Ag Subcommittee

DR. MOSES KAIRO, professor and dean of the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, testified last week on behalf of the 1890 universities before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Research and Biotechnology.

Kairo's testimony highlighted several ongoing 1890 research and Extension initiatives and the key priorities they want included in the [2023 Farm Bill](#). The full testimony can be [read here](#) or [watched on YouTube](#).

These priorities include:

- Reauthorization of the [Centers of Excellence program](#) — increasing the number of Centers from six to 10 — and an allocation of \$5 million per year per center.
- Permanent reauthorization and funding of the scholarships for students at 1890 institutions.
- Creation of a new program to stand up veterinary medicine schools at 1890 universities.
- Reauthorization of the 1890 facilities improvement program to include additional infrastructure and deferred maintenance funding of \$100 million annually.
- Reauthorization of the Evans-Allen Research and Education programs with the percentage share of Hatch funds increased from 30% to 40%. Tuition and fees for graduate students would also be an allowable expense for Evans-Allen.
- Reauthorization of the 1890 Extension program with the percentage share of Smith-Lever funds increased from 20% to 40%.
- Reauthorization of the 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program



Dr. Moses T. Kairo
Dean of the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences
University of Maryland Eastern Shore





Congress approved the Evans-Allen Act of 1977 to provide capacity funding for food and agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University (the 1890 Institutions) similar to that provided to the 1862 universities under the Hatch Act of 1887. Research conducted under the Evans-Allen Program has led to hundreds of scientific breakthroughs of benefit to both the unique stakeholders of the 1890 institutions and the nation as a whole. The Evans-Allen Program has been extremely important in allowing the 1890 institutions to attract top-notch scientists to their campuses, conduct high-quality and innovative research and become more fully integrated within the land-grant system.

Below is an example of impacts from the 1890 research program submitted by scientists at Langston and South Carolina State universities.

LU researchers evaluate small ruminant methane emissions

The Langston University Sherman Lewis School of Agricultural and Applied Sciences has expanded its effort to support climate-smart agricultural practices and support NIFA’s strategic goal to achieve environmental stewardship and build sustainability in animal production. The United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2015; the 13th SDG targets “taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” to avoid geophysical climate catastrophes around the world while enhancing food security (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>).

This target is to limit global warming to 1.5 °C by 45% reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in 2030 and reaching net zero in 2050. Livestock production systems produce 6 to 8 billion tons of GHG in carbon dioxide equivalent (i.e., 11.1 to 19.6% to global

GHG emissions), with the greatest contribution from ruminants (cattle, buffaloes, sheep, and goats). Thus, ruminants are blamed for climate change, although they recycle waste and unutilized plant biomass to produce nutritious foods for humans.

How do Small Ruminants Contribute to Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)?

Enteric fermentation, manure management, feed production, energy use, processing and land-use change activities are the sources of GHG from ruminant livestock systems. Enteric fermentation contributes to most of the global anthropogenic methane emissions. The microbial community of ruminants’ stomachs contains massive amounts of bacteria, archaea, fungi and protozoa that work together to digest plant bio-

See Methane on Page 5



SCSU garden grant grows plants along with students’ self-esteem

For a select group of Mellichamp Elementary School students, learning to plant seeds and grow things has been more than just fun. It has helped them grow, as well.

The students were part of a research project funded by South Carolina State University 1890 Research & Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Antoinette C. Hollis, lead researcher and an assistant professor in the counselor education program in the Department of Human Services at SC State, wrote the grant to investigate the effects of horticultural therapy on elementary school students, specifically looking at self-esteem, wellness and resilience.

The students started the program in the spring while they were in the fourth grade and finished up in the fifth grade. The program consisted of a weekly two-hour after-school program.

Initially, the program was to be in-person at Mellichamp, but the COVID-19 pandemic made it necessary to go virtual.

Each week, the students received a garden kit with soil, seeds, pots and other items related to gardening and nature.

Students were taught the basics of plant science and learned to grow vegetables and flowers from seeds and care for houseplants, Hollis said. They learned about the creatures that inhabited the gardens, learned about bird song and butterfly migration. They studied why leaves turn colors in fall and learned all about bats.

“What I learned about the Garden Club was how much water I needed to water my plants,” fifth-grader Jacqueline Rangel said. “I also learned some things about

See Gardens on Page 6

Senate and House leaders rally to expand 1890 Centers

U.S. Senators **SHERROD BROWN** (D-OH) and **RAPHAEL WARNOCK** (D-GA) and U.S. Representatives **ALMA ADAMS** (D-NC-12), **MARILYN STRICKLAND** (D-WA-10) and **SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.** (D-GA-02) introduced bicameral legislation that would increase the number of authorized Centers of Excellence (COEs) at 1890 land-grant institutions to 10.

The *1890s Advancing and Building Leadership and Excellence Opportunity Act of 2023*, known as the **ENABLE Opportunity Act of 2023**,

would add four new centers of excellence, focusing on climate change, forestry reliance and conservation, food safety and bioprocessing and value-added agriculture and transdisciplinary social science.

“Centers of Excellence at 1890 land-grant institutions have fostered generations of African American students, farmers and scientists in our communities for years,” said Brown. “By expanding the number of centers of excellence, we will ensure institutions ... can continue training the next generation of agricultural leaders.”

“Georgia is better off when more students from all backgrounds are getting the skills and training they need to bolster our agriculture industry and rural economies,” said Warnock. “I’m proud to join my colleagues in introducing legislation that will boost the transformative work already underway at 1890 land-grant institutions to train the heads and hands of our future agriculture leaders.”

“The 1890 land-grant HBCUs contribute billions of dollars to their local economies and serve as gateways to opportunity for tens of thousands of students every year. As a

proud alumna of N.C. A&T State University, which hosts the 1890 Center of Excellence for Student Success and Workforce Development, I know how transformative these institutions are,” said Adams, founder, and co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus. “Already, the Center of Excellence at N.C. A&T has assisted over 2,200 students. This bill would expand on the proven success of the Centers of

Excellence, create even more opportunities for students, and further prepare our workforce for the challenges of the 21st

century and beyond. I am proud to continue to partner with Senator Brown to create new jobs and opportunities for HBCU students.”

“In order to increase Black representation in the STEM and agriculture industries, we must invest in Black students and develop successful career pipelines at the university level,” said Strickland. “As a graduate of Clark Atlanta University, I’m proud to lead the centers of excellence bill that will support equitable opportunities for HBCU students in industries where they are historically underrepresented.”

“Our 1890 land-grant institutions, like Fort Valley State University, help ensure that U.S. agriculture remains on the cutting edge, developing and utilizing the talents of a culturally diverse STEM workforce. The centers of excellence they host will resource capacity building for them to help assure that America continues to produce the highest quality, safest, most abundant, and most economical food, fiber, and fuel in the world with their valuable input and work product,”

See Centers on Page 6



Whitesides . . . From page 1

disciplinary social science.

Also, last month, USDA announced a \$262.5 million investment in higher education institutions to foster the nation’s next generation of diverse agricultural professionals. This program is funded by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, which aims to lower costs for American families, expand access to markets to producers from all backgrounds and communities, build a clean energy economy and strengthen American supply chains.

Further, the NextGen program is part of USDA’s commitment to equity across the department and its steps under Secretary Vilsack’s direction to improve equity and access, eliminate barriers to its programs for underserved individuals and communities and build a workforce more representative of America. Eligible institutions include 1890 land-grant universities, 1994 tribal colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions (HSI), Alaska Native-serving, Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and institutions of higher education located in the

insular areas, and their partners.

Of the 33 projects funded, seven 1890 institutions were awarded funding, totaling slightly over \$79 million. These institutions were Florida A&M University, Lincoln University, North Carolina A&T State University, South Carolina State University, Tennessee State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and West Virginia State University (*see the complete list of proposals funded embedded in the article entitled, “Biden-Admin announces NextGen grant winners ” on page 4.*)

Finally, ARD’s core values of excellence, responsibility and discovery are why the 1890 research and education program continues to contribute innovative solutions to the problems adversely impacting underserved and marginalized individuals, families and communities. However, we still have work to do, which includes the passage of the 2023 Farm Bill that contains reauthorization and expansion of the 1890 major programs and the Research Infrastructure Act (RFA).

Biden admin announces NextGen grant winners

On June 21, the USDA announced a \$262.5 million investment in higher education institutions to foster the next generation of diverse agricultural professionals nationwide. This program is funded by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, which aims to lower costs for American families, expand access to markets to producers from all backgrounds and communities, build a clean energy economy and strengthen American supply chains.

"Each generation of agricultural professionals faces new challenges as we feed our world's growing population, and the future generations give me hope that we will rise to the occasion to meet these challenges with opportunity," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We need to ensure our youth have the education and training they need to accelerate the development of an agricultural system that is climate-smart, sustainable, profitable and equitable. This historic investment from the Biden-Harris Administration in our nation's minority-serving institutions brings us closer to building a workforce that represents the richness and diversity of all the communities we serve."

NIFA's *"From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program"* (NextGen) will enable eligible institutions, from New York to the Northern Mariana Islands, to build and sustain the next generation of food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences workforce. This includes efforts to strengthen USDA's workforce through enhanced educational support, experiential learning and exposure to early career opportunities.

Eligible institutions include 1890 land-grant universities, 1994 tribal colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions (HSI), Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and institutions of higher education located in the insular areas, and their partners. The \$262.5 million investment will provide training and support to more than 20,000 future food and agricultural leaders through **33 project** partners.

"The vision we have at NIFA is to feed and nourish all Americans and create economic opportunity for more American families. Equity and diversity are the two central elements in this vision. One goal of the NextGen program is to identify, inspire and prepare our youth, particularly in underrepresented communities, to be the next generation of hunger fighters and agricultural problem solvers. This is the right thing to do and the right time," said NIFA Director Dr. Manjit Misra.

The NextGen program is part of USDA's commitment to equity across the Department and its steps under Secretary Vilsack's direction to improve equity and access, eliminate barriers to its programs for underserved individuals and communities, and build a workforce more representative of America.

Each project will be funded for a period of five years. Examples of **awarded projects** include:

- **1994 Tribal Land-grant Institutions**—Fond du Lac

Tribal and Community College's project is a collaborative effort between Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Leech Lake Community College, bringing together two 1994 land-grant colleges to build sustainable educational and experiential systems to prepare Tribal college students to enter agricultural and STEM workforces. (\$9 million).

- **Hispanic-serving Institutions**—Luna Community College (LCC), a Hispanic-serving institution in Las Vegas, NM, will implement the Luna Initiative for Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences (FANH) Training and Education (LIFTE) Project, which will address recruitment, enrollment and retention issues of students pursuing academic degrees or noncredit training programs in the Luna Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Center. LIFTE will also expand its training of FANH professionals to increase the workforce required to restore, re-build and re-invigorate forests, farm/range lands and waterways catastrophically damaged during the worst wildfire in New Mexico history, which occurred within LCC's serving area in the summer of 2022.
- **1890 Historically Black Land-grant Institutions**—North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC, in partnership with Tuskegee University, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Virginia State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, the University of Maryland at Eastern Shore and North Carolina State University will implement the "System Approach to Promote Learning and Innovation for the Next GenerationS (SAPLINGS)" of Professionals and Leaders in Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences program to train 6,134 grade 5-12 students, 326 grade 5-12 educators, and 5,871 college students; reach 980 families; engaging more than 30 partners; and enhancing underrepresented minority student enrollment, retention and graduation rates at 1890 LGUs to grow the next generation of diverse workers, leaders, and innovators for food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences (FANH) careers.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans daily in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America and committing to equity across the department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit

www.usda.gov.

Methane . . . From page 2

mass and produce methane as ‘burp.’

Manure during storage or in grazing pasture produces nitrous oxide and is the most significant source of nitrous oxide. Carbon dioxide emission comes from fossil fuel and electricity use for farm activities and synthetic fertilizer production.

Small ruminants with biomass of around 7% of total livestock have a share of more than 12% of the total GHG emissions (CO₂ equivalent) from livestock's enteric and methane and nitrous oxide emissions. The carbon footprint (kg GHG in CO₂ equivalent per kilogram meat) of lamb is 9 to 19 kg, which is greater than chicken (4 to 6 kg) and pork (4 to 11 kg) but lower than beef (15-32 kg) and more than 80% of the carbon footprint is from enteric methane emission.

Importance of Methane in Climate Action

Methane is 27-30 times more powerful in global warming than carbon dioxide, accounting for about 50% of global temperature rise since the pre-industrial era. This means methane has a greater adverse impact on climate change. However, methane has a much shorter lifetime in the atmosphere of 12 years compared to 300 to 1,000 years for CO₂.

Therefore, cutting methane emissions would lower the global warming effect faster and thus mitigating methane emissions has gained significant attention recently. Led by the United States and European Union at COP26 in 2021, over 150 countries have joined the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) to limit global methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030.

Potential Solution: How to Reduce Enteric Methane (‘burp’) in Small Ruminants?

The LU-AIGR team has been working to discover solutions through experimentations and other science-based approaches to reduce enteric methane in small ruminants. Exploring the ruminal microbiome is important to understand the dynamics of feed digestion, methane production and its mitigation in small ruminants.

LU-AIGR researchers are working to uncover these complex mechanistic links using multi-omics approaches to understand methane production by ruminal microbial consortia better. Besides the gold standard of enteric methane meas-

urement using a respiration chamber, LU-AIGR scientists are also currently evaluating the ‘GreenFeed’ system and laser methane detectors to measure enteric methane production in small ruminant animals, which can be applied in grazing and farm conditions to monitor methane mitigation technologies.

Additionally, our scientists are actively working with a vision toward environmental solutions by identifying multiple sustainable pathways for enteric methane mitigation to accomplish SDG13 and the broad GMP.

Selected Impacts of Langston’s Climate Smart Research on Small Ruminants:

Several discoveries have been made by the LU-AIGR research team, many of which have been published and shared with small ruminant producers. Results have shown high levels of effectiveness and are also economically viable.

Some of the results are as follows. Changes in feed ingredients can lower methane production from ruminants. Several research studies conducted at LU-AIGR have demonstrated that Lespedeza forage or hay feeding reduces small ruminants ‘burp’ by 30 to 50% and, thus, can fulfill the commitment of GMP for small ruminant sources. Additionally, Lespedeza feeding offers other benefits, for example, lesser nitrous oxide emission from manure, reduced gastrointestinal worm burdens, protein use efficiency and overall health status.

Supplementation of vegetable oils is another effective solution to lower enteric methane in small ruminants. When coconut oil and soybean oil were added to small ruminants’ diets at a 4% level, methane production in goats was reduced by more than 30%.

Feeding high-concentrate diets is effective in lowering methane emissions in small ruminants.

LU-AIGR scientists are continuing their effort to discover additional knowledge and develop technologies to mitigate and monitor enteric methane emissions for small ruminants to accomplish a ‘net zero target.’

For more information, contact [Dr. Ryzsard Puchala \(puchala@langston.edu\)](mailto:Dr. Ryzsard Puchala (puchala@langston.edu)) or [Dr. Amlan Patra at \(amlan.patra@langston.edu\)](mailto:Dr. Amlan Patra at (amlan.patra@langston.edu)). The Methane Emission project is supported by the Evans-Allen and CBG programs of the USDA’s NIFA.



Exploring various ways of assessing gas exchange of grazing animals.

New USDA dashboards assist with grant tracking

USDA has released [two new data dashboards](#) that allow users to access high-level data about NIFA’s agricultural research funding investments and track the status of their grant applications.

USDA stakeholders, partners, media members and the public can now immediately access, download and save data on all NIFA competitive and capacity funds granted since fiscal year 2018.

This tool allows users to pull information on funding investments by research program and grant type, congressional district, recipient (including land-grant, minority-

serving institutions, tribal, Hispanic-serving institutions and Extension), and other focused searches.

The **NIFA Grant Funding Dashboard** allows users to search for information related to requirements, waivers and the amount of match funding provided by recipient type and award. Users can also explore a funding map to find NIFA funding obligations by states and congressional districts. The **NIFA Application Status Dashboard** enables users to quickly check the status of their application using their assigned Grants.gov tracking number.

[Learn more about these new tools.](#)

Gardens . . . From page 2

worms, like worms don’t have eyes.

“My favorite thing about the Garden Club was planting beans and other plant seeds. My other favorite thing about the Garden Club was doing fun activities,” Jacqueline said.

Hollis said the skills students developed have increased their self-esteem and taught them about resilience.

She described the participants as “super gardeners.”

“The wonder of putting a seed in the soil and watching it grow has given them a special skill

not everyone has,” Hollis said. “Their experiences with the plants have given them an understanding of how to bounce back when things aren’t going well, just as a plant that is wilted will bounce back when it is watered.”

Fifth grader Noah Green said his experience in the Garden Club was excellent.

“I learned so much, like how to make a worm farm, what temperature water (is needed) to water a plant and most importantly, how to be a better person,” Noah said. “Also, my favorite part about the garden club is that the people were so generous.”

SC State 1890 Research and Extension and Mel-

“The wonder of putting a seed in the soil and watching it grow has given them a special skill not everyone has,” Hollis

lichamp closed out the Garden Club with a program highlighting the students’ achievements. The participants shared garden-related artwork, their stories and their plants with parents and various Orangeburg County school officials.

“I am grateful for the partnership with the 1890 Research and the USDA. Hollis and her expert team of therapists, master gardeners and farmers did an amazing job with

our Mellichamp students who participated in the horticultural therapy research program,” said Dr. Elrica C. Glover, Mellichamp principal.

“I believe the grant successfully met its goal to engage our students while enhancing their overall mental and physical health.”

Glover said it was evident that the students enjoyed the hands-on experiences because of their attendance and participation during the weekly sessions.

“The weekly sessions provided real-life experiences of growing plants that the students will remember forever,” Glover said. “We are closer to fulfilling our district’s mission of using innovative ideas and practices to prepare our scholars to become productive citizens of society because of the collaboration and hard work from this partnership.”

Centers . . . From page 3

said Rep. Bishop. “I am proud to join my colleagues in support of this legislation.”

The *ENABLE Opportunity Act of 2023* would also increase the discretionary appropriations authorization for centers of excellence in order to provide funding for new centers and increased funding for current centers.

Centers of Excellence help:

- Increase profitability and rural prosperity in underserved farming communities.
- Address critical needs for enhanced international training and development.

Increase diversity in the science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mathematics (STEAM) pipeline.

With this bill, Brown is pushing for Central State University to receive a Center of Excellence to continue and expand on the university’s research.

“The Centers of Excellence at 1890 Universities have been a tremendous success,” said Dr. Mortimer Neufville, president of 1890 Universities Foundation. “These centers were first promised to the 1890 Universities over 30 years ago but thanks to the outstanding work of Representative Adams, Senator Brown and their staffs, we were able to get them included in the 2018 Farm Bill. While the pandemic slowed some of our start-up work, we are making strong progress across the 1890 system.”

SCSU students use summer internships to enhance skills

As the academic year draws to a close and students return home for the summer, South Carolina State 1890 Research & Extension is proud to announce that a total of 31 South Carolina State University Agriculture Innovation and USDA 1890 National Scholars will strengthen their skills outside of the classroom through various unique summer internship opportunities.

Promoting academic excellence and bridging pathways to grow a career in agriculture, SC State 1890 offers two scholarship opportunities – the USDA 1890 National Scholarship and the Agriculture Innovation Scholarship - both requiring students to complete an internship as part of the scholarship expectations. Twenty-seven Ag Innovation Scholars and four USDA scholars have accepted internships with various agencies, businesses and organizations nationwide. “We are proud of our scholars for fully investing in their academic success and securing internship opportunities that will elevate their skillsets beyond the classroom,” said Dr. Derrick Wise, who manages the scholarship programs. “I am especially proud of the four freshmen for taking advantage of the opportunity so early in their academic careers, which allows them to transfer their skills inside the classroom bringing a new perspective to their peers.”

“I believe the earlier you start gaining experience, the better you become,” said Avery Franklin, freshman agribusiness major. “As a freshman, it is important for me to take advantage of internship opportunities because it will better equip me with the skills needed to align with a career path that is right for me.”

With internship acceptances varying from SC State 1890 Research & Demonstration Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Trane Technology, Brenden J. Law Firm, USDA-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, District Department of Transportation and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund USDA Summer Internship, scholars will gain valuable research, clinical and/or field experience when

combined with personal interests that will empower them to become future leaders in agriculture.

“Internships play a crucial role in shaping one’s career and are stepping stones toward bonus opportunities that allow our scholars to gain a competitive edge when applying to graduate school or entering into the workforce,” Travis Johnson, USDA/1890 program liaison, stated. “Not only will our scholars stand out amongst other applicants, but they will have access to executive mentorship and valuable resources that can offer several benefits including higher salaries.”

Students in the USDA 1890 National Scholars program have a unique internship experience that carries them throughout their undergraduate tenure. Each summer, scholars return to the USDA to build upon their skills in their respective fields, preparing them for a full-time position once they graduate.

Jaylen Roberts, a sophomore civil engineering major, returned to Wisconsin to continue his internship as a civil engineering trainee with the USDA National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

“My internship experience with the USDA-NRCS program has forced me out of my comfort zone and helped me to become more independent,” said Roberts. “The USDA has a critical need for engineers, and my internship experience has helped me develop foundational technical skills that will be successful in the engineering field. By operating various software applications and articulating design plans with landowners and colleagues, I gained valuable hands-on experience.”

To learn more about the Agriculture Innovation Scholarship, contact [Dr. Derrick Wise](mailto:dr_wise5@scsu.edu), state program leader for education innovation and support, at dr_wise5@scsu.edu. For more information about the USDA 1890 National Scholarship, contact [Travis Johnson](mailto:johnson.travis@usda.gov), USDA liaison, at johnson.travis@usda.gov.



1890 Scholars, above, SCSU Ag. Innovation Scholars, below.



ARD OFFICERS

Louis Whitesides
(Chair)

South Carolina State University
Email: lwhitesides@scsu.edu

Mohamed Ahmedna
(Chair-Elect)

N.C. A&T State University
Email: ahmedna@ncat.edu

Ami M. Smith
(Secretary)

West Virginia State University
Email: smitham@wvstateu.edu

Jose Ulises Toledo (Treasurer)

Southern University
Email: jose_toledo@suagcenter.com

Olga Bolden-Tiller
(Member-at-Large)

Tuskegee University
Email: oboldentiller@tuskegee.edu

Chandra Reddy
(Immediate Past Chair)

Tennessee State University
Email: creddy@tnstate.edu

Non-Elected

Alton Thompson (Exec. Director)

Email: athompson1@ncat.edu

Lisa Williamson (Exec. Asst.)

Email: lmwilliamson1@ncat.edu

1890 Land Grant Universities

[Alabama A&M University](#)
[Alcorn State University](#)
[Central State University](#)
[Delaware State University](#)
[Florida A&M University](#)
[Fort Valley State University](#)
[Kentucky State University](#)
[Langston University](#)
[Lincoln University](#)
[North Carolina A&T State University](#)
[Prairie View A&M University](#)
[South Carolina State University](#)
[Southern University and A&M College](#)
[Tennessee State University](#)
[Tuskegee University](#)
[University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff](#)
[University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#)
[Virginia State University](#)
[West Virginia State University](#)

ARD Updates is published monthly by the Association of Research Directors. To suggest articles, contact Dr. Alton Thompson at athompson1@ncat.edu

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Bioinformatics and/or Biostatistics](#)

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Precision Agriculture](#)

[Assistant Professor of Biology: Cell Biology/Immunotoxicology/ Metabolism](#)

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Fashion Merchandising and Textiles Program](#)

[Assistant or Associate Professor: Nutrition and Dietetics](#)

[Assistant Professor and Agribusiness /Resource Economist Specialist](#)

[Chair, Department of Agriculture Food Resources Science](#)

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences

[Research Associate Professor \(Ruminant Nutritional Physiology\) \(myworkdayjobs.com\)](#)

[Business Operations](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF, School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Dean/Director

[Assistant Professor – Ag Economics](#)

[Assistant Professor – Ag Engineering](#)

[Assistant Professor – Animal Science](#)

[Extension Specialist III – Horticulturist](#)

[Extension Specialist II – Project/Program Manager/Communications Director – School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences](#)

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, WVU Research & Development Corporation, Associate Dean/Associate Director for Research

CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY, John W. Garland College of Engineering, Science, Technology and Agriculture, Dean and Director of 1890 Land Grant Programs

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCES, Chief Executive Officer

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, College of Agricultural Sciences, Senior Associate Dean

FOUNDATION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE RESEARCH (FFAR), Scientific Program Director, Next Generation Crops

CALENDAR

2023 JOINT COPS SUMMER MEETING | July 18-20, 2023 | Loew's Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, MO 64108 | Phone: (816-897-7070).

The Joint Committees on Organization and Policy (and associated groups) is the elected and appointed leadership from the Board on Agriculture Assembly sections executive committees (Academic Programs Section, Administrative Heads Section, Cooperative Extension Section, Experiment Station Section, International Agriculture Section), The Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS), Council on Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) executive committee and liaisons, the Policy Board of Directors and the three standing committees of the Policy Board of Directors: Budget and Advocacy Committee, Committee on Legislation and Policy (Farm Bill), and Communication and Marketing Committee.

2023 NEW ADMINISTRATORS ORIENTATION | July 19-21, 2023 (same location)

The event will have one-day crossover meetings with Joint COPS so that BAA and BHHS leadership can interact with the new administrators beginning at noon on Wednesday July 19. The New Administrators Orientation is intended for individuals on the Board on Agriculture Assembly and their supporting administrators or faculty, who have entered an administrative position recently; USDA-NIFA personnel who are interested; and any others who would like to learn more about APLU, the Land-Grant University System, the BAA, and USDA.

[View Draft Agenda.](#)

SOUTHERN REGION ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS & CARET JOINT SUMMER MEETING | July 28-30, 2023
Crowne Plaza - Knoxville, TN

The [website link](#) has registration and hotel reservation information and an overall meeting schedule. The registration deadline is Friday, July 7th.

agINNOVATION/ESS/SAES/ARD FALL MEETING |

Sept, 24-25, Grand Rapids Michigan | Catalyzing Solutions to Climate Change Impacts on Food Security through Partnerships, Hosted by Michigan State University

SAVE THE DATE

81ST ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE | Oct, 29-31, 2023, Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa

APLU ANNUAL MEETING | "Innovation for Impact" | Nov. 12-14, Seattle, WA

JOB

