

USDA announces winners of 2023 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program, including Dr. Emmanuel Asiamah, from UABP who accompanied students to Ghana.

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

September 2023, Vol. 14, Issue 9

Message from the Chair DR. LOUIS WHITESIDES



Dear Friends and Colleagues,
At the Southern Mini Land-Grant meeting, hosted by Texas A&M University in May 2022, the ARD and the Southern Association of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD) held a planning meeting to create stronger relationships between the two associations that would result in future collaboration and partnering opportunities, with a focus on the Southern region. We aimed to vet ideas and thoughts to keep this conversation alive before a joint meeting of the 1890 and 1862 directors at a future date. The inaugural meeting convened in Atlanta, GA, on Aug. 11–12, 2023.

I express my sincere appreciation to Drs. Alton Thompson and Gary Thompson, executive directors for the 1890 and 1862 regions, respectively, for planning and executing an outstanding historic meeting. Dr. Donovan L. Segura, associate vice chancellor for Equity, Inclusion, and Title IX, Southern University, led the opening session of our first joint business meeting by focusing on “Building Relationships with Trust and Mutual Respect.” This session acknowledged the history of the 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions, issues that historically prevented collaborations, followed by an engaging discussion on not “allowing history to dictate our future, but moving forward in very intentional ways” by establishing open lines of communication, fostering a culture of cooperation, and recognizing and valuing the expertise of each institution.

The second session, led by Dr. Doug Steele, vice president of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, Association of Public and Land-

GROW urban conference scheduled

The National Charrette Institute at Michigan University is pleased to announce the inaugural Generating Research Opportunities Workshop for the (GROW) Urban Agriculture conference.

Click here for more information: [GROW Urban Agriculture Conference](#).

This is a virtual three-part conference for researchers, Extension professionals, educators and stakeholders designed to build interdisciplinary teams and support their efforts to secure funding for research, Extension and education (REE) that supports and expands urban agriculture.

- Phase I is Nov. 1-3, 2023. This virtual session will connect participants with similar research, extension and education interests.
- Phase II will run from Nov. 4, 2023, to Jan. 16, 2024. Teams will work independently on developing interdisciplinary funding proposals.
- Phase III is Jan. 17-19, 2024. This virtual session will allow teams to share their proposals with mock grant review teams to get feedback and then provide an opportunity for the team to work on suggested revisions.

There is no cost for this conference, but [registration](#) is required.

This conference is funded by a USDA National Institute of Agriculture grant. It is being organized by Michigan State University National Charrette Institute, Extension and the Tool Box Dialog Initiative; Washington State University Metropolitan Center for Research and Extension and the Center for Environmental Research, Education and Outreach; and the National Urban Research and Extension Center housed at Washington State University.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Gaurav Sagvekar at sagvekar@msu.edu or Marie Ruemenapp at rue-menap@msu.edu

GROW-Urban Agriculture Conference



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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 Lincoln University of Missouri.

Lincoln addresses climate impacts on watershed management

Lincoln University of Missouri Water Resource Observatory (WRO), led by Dr. Sean Zeiger, is deploying a science-based approach to study how climate and land use influences water resources in the Midwest United States. This project is funded by USDA, DOE and EPA through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), in collaboration with the University of Missouri and DOE Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to engage in integrated Extension, research and education activities.

Through experimental watershed studies, this project will assess the climate impacts on water resources and water quality in rural communities. A network of weather monitoring stations across Missouri, including the central, southeast, Kansas City and St. Louis regions, are deployed in the study. The weather stations are linked to cellular networks to provide no-cost, publicly available weather information in underserved communities. In addition, to recruit and retain underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and foster the career development of students from underrepresented groups, the project team is organizing hands-on research demonstrations and trainings at both Missouri Ozarks AmeriFlux (MOFLUX) and ORNL sites. The MOFLUX site includes a 110-foot tall climate monitoring tower in Mark Twain National Forest located in central Missouri. The University of Missouri operates the MOFLUX tower. Lincoln University students will travel to ORNL in Tennessee to meet with ORNL Scientists, complete STEM courses and tour science-based information (i.e.,



The Missouri Water Resources Observatory (WRO) team erected a three-story tall tower to monitor climate change at LU Busby Farm, an organic-certified Jefferson City, Missouri farm.

data) and lessons learned from research activities at MOFLUX and ORNL.

The science-based information from the weather stations and watershed studies will be used in LU Cooperative climate workshops. The workshops aim to provide useful information to help stakeholders better understand climate change and its impacts.

AFRI grant designed to help small ruminant farmers

Dr. Ye Su, assistant professor of agribusiness at Lincoln University, was recently awarded a USDA-AFRI grant entitled “Assessing Opportunities and Challenges of the Small Ruminant Industry: Consumer Preferences, Market Trends, and Potential Economic Impacts.” The project aims to provide research-based market information to U.S. small ruminant producers and industry practitioners. The project will help small producers make informed production and marketing decisions, increase the demand for goat and sheep meat through consumer education, proffer relevant information for policymakers to support the industry's growth and enhance the competitiveness of the U.S. small ruminant industry. The project team includes faculty and state specialists from Lincoln University, the University of Missouri and Tuskegee University.

The project will achieve two objectives: 1) examine the consumer preferences for domestic and imported sheep and goat meat using a choice experiment and 2) develop a rigorous economic model to evaluate the potential social-economic impacts of the small ruminant industry in Missouri using IMPLAN software.

Findings generated from this research will be distributed to target audiences through workshops, field days, Extension services, web pages, social media, conferences and publications. The project's outcome will help strengthen Lincoln University's research and Extension capacity in serving small sheep and goat producers more effectively and efficiently and promote the small ruminant industry and the economic sustainability of the food systems by providing needed information for underserved small ruminant producers.

Lincoln nabs \$1.65 million to advance resilient livestock winter feeding

A multidisciplinary research team led by Dr. Tunsisa Hurisso, an assistant professor of soil science at Lincoln University (LU), was awarded \$1.65 million from USDA for the project entitled “Evaluating Climate Resilient Alternative Winter-Feeding Strategy for Improved Livestock Productivity by Grazing in a Solar Corridor Cropping System” This grant is funded by the USDA’s Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program that aimed at developing innovative approaches to climate-smart agriculture.

The project will develop a new sustainable agricultural production system that

maximizes land use, improves soil health, promotes biodiversity, mitigates climate change and potentially produces healthier livestock. By using the Solar Corridor Cropping System (SCCS), the project will examine whether a high-energy grain crop and high-protein forage crops can be grown together for grazing in the late fall and winter while meeting the live-

stock energy and protein demand. The proposed year-round grazing system would help reduce expenses associated with machinery, grain, hay, forage harvest and storage and labor, making entry into livestock farming more accessible for all farmers, especially those who lack access to an affordable source of credit.

“This new system can potentially open up doors for everyone, especially for limited-resource farmers,” Dr. Hurisso said.

The current agriculture system faces several challenges, including increasing stress from climate change, soil erosion and biodiversity loss, according to Dr. Hurisso. Farmers also strive to meet the rising demand for higher-quality food, invest in farm productivity and stay economically resilient. While large-scale farmers may be able to afford to invest in the current seasonal agricultural system, small farmers — such as beginning, minority, veteran, women and young farmers — are struggling due to the large financial investment re-

quired in machinery, storage and labor. However, the proposed year-round SCCS system eliminates the need for these investments, making it available to all farmers.

“The production system we’re proposing has multiple benefits in addition to providing a healthy and balanced diet to the animals,” said Dr. Hurisso. “It has so many other advantages.”

The concept of SCCS involves planting a high-energy grain crop in corridors with wider row spacing and a high-protein forage crop(s) between the rows. This approach

provides the livestock a food source year-round and allows the plants to use more than 90% of the available solar energy, resulting in greater production and increased crop yields. This novel intercropping method can also provide grazing livestock a more balanced and nutritious



DR. TUNSISA HURISSO



Dr. Tunsisa Hurisso worked in a laboratory at Lincoln University for sample analysis.

diet, leading to healthier animals and higher-quality animal products.

Additionally, SCCS can help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To achieve this, Dr. Hurisso’s team will establish experimental plots at two sites for data collection. One site will be at Alan T. Busby Certified Organic Research and Demonstration Farm at LU, and the other at the Bradford Research Farm at the University of Missouri-Columbia, a non-organically managed farm. The project team will examine the forage yield and forage nutritional quality, soil carbon sequestration, soil health impact and profitability of the proposed alternative winter-feeding strategy under organic and non-organic settings.

The project team will also include three experienced and established producers, two underserved producers and one beginning producer - for a total of six livestock cooperator producers.

Maryland officials and farmers discuss new Farm Bill

Officials and farmers met at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) on Aug. 11, 2023, to discuss new language that will be added to farming legislation.

Congressman Glenn Thompson, the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture chairman, said the meeting was a success.

“This was outstanding today,” Congressman Thompson said. “This was an opportunity to bring the voices of Maryland agriculture to the table for the 2023 Maryland Farm Bill.”

UMES president Heidi Anderson said her institution would benefit from two initiatives the bill could offer.

“I think a win for us would be if they hear us on the infrastructure and they make sure to include extra funding in the Farm Bill for that particular aspect,” President Anderson said.

“A second win for us would be if there were scholarships for our students because that’s where our students will need assistance to help them get through the full four years of

getting their world-class education,” President Anderson added.

Dr. Noah Bressman, professor of physiology at Salisbury University, said his department needs research money to help further the understanding of a well-known invasive species.

“I’m hoping to get more language and more funding for research on invasive species, to figure out how to protect the local ecosystems,” Dr. Bressman said.

Congressman Glenn Thompson said his primary goal is to try to accommodate all who bring food to tables nationwide.

“The bottom line is, my priority for the farm bill is the priority of the farmers sitting in this room and every barn across the country,” Congressman Thompson said. “What I hear from them, those are the things that need to be a priority for the 2023 Farm Bill.”

[Click to hear the news clip from this gathering.](#)

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Grant Universities (APLU), followed with a thoughtful topic, “Getting to One Land-Grant University System.” is the logical next step, Dr. Steele challenged the directors to develop collaborative programs in 1890 and 1862 land-grant universities that required recognizing and leveraging the unique strengths and needs of each institution. Dr. Steele contended that leaders could effectively tailor research programs to address specific agricultural challenges for the betterment of the land-grant system by understanding distinct institutional expertise, resources and regional contexts.

After Segura and Steele set the stage for our joint meeting, the final four sessions were simply outstanding and impactful. They resulted in the desired joint meeting outcomes being achieved with commendation. These sessions were entitled, respectively, “Communicating Within, Among, and Beyond Our Institutions,” (Latasha Ford, Fort Valley State University; Cassie Ann Kiggen, University of Georgia, and Faith Peppers, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)); “Justice 40 and Environmental Justice,” (Kevin Kephart, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture); “Building Interdisciplinary Research Teams,” (Amy Grunden, North Carolina State University and Gregory Goins, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University); and “Engaging Stakeholders in the Southern Region,” (Olga Bolden-Tiller, Tuskegee University).



ARD and SAAESD planning meeting attendees.

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Finally, Dr. Manjit K. Misra, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, gave an outstanding and relevant presentation on expanding the partnership between the land-grant system and NIFA and strategic partnering with other federal agencies. Dr. Misra proposed the 3 Cs to foster these partnerships: “Collaborate, Cultivate [NextGen] and Communicate.” He concluded his presentation by reciting an African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

I, along with Dr. Paula Agudelo, SAAESD chair and experiment station director at Clemson, am very pleased that this inaugural formal meeting of ARD and SAAESD was highly successful and that a path forward was developed. Our two research associations will definitely be going far together as we work in partnership to contribute to solutions to the complex challenges confronting the food and agricultural sectors.

Gooden nominated as rural development under secretary

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack offered the following statement following President Biden's nomination of Dr. Basil Gooden as under secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



DR. BASIL GOODEN

“Dr. Basil Gooden is a widely-respected, accomplished champion for affordable housing, community advancement, and economic development, and I applaud President Biden for nominating him to take the helm of our critical Rural Development mission area. Already we have been fortunate for Dr. Gooden's leadership at

USDA, where he has

served as the Virginia State Director for Rural Development and most recently as the Director of State Operations for Rural Development, in which role he has been instrumental in our effort to help more communities take advantage of USDA programs and opportunities. His public service career is informed by a lifelong commitment to agriculture and rural development, stemming from his upbringing on the cattle farm his family still operates in Buckingham County, Virginia and a strong passion for continued learning. In 2016, Dr. Gooden became the first Black American to serve as Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry for the Commonwealth of Virginia, after previously serving as Chief Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. In addition to his roles at USDA Rural Development and in the Virginia State Government, Dr. Gooden has served as a County Committee Advisor in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties for USDA's Farm Service Agency, and recently was a Visiting Scholar in the Sustainable Food Access Core of the Institute for Inclusion, Inquiry and Innovation at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Gooden's firsthand knowledge of USDA programs and the needs of people who depend on them, his track record for advancing and improving policies that benefit agriculture and rural America, and his tenacity for teaching, advocating and learning make him an outstanding nominee for this position and a true asset for our department.”

May sure you're 19-Strong Support The 1890 Foundation's fundraising efforts



The 1890 Universities Foundation has launched a new online giving initiative to raise funds to support the 1890 Foundation's mission on behalf of the 19 Strong Historically Black Land Grant Universities.

This online giving initiative is a first for the 1890 Foundation and is intended to raise not only funds to support the ongoing work of the organization but also raise awareness about the system of 19-Strong Historically Black Land Grant Universities and generate pride throughout the 1890 community as supporters will have an opportunity to make charitable donations to the 1890 Foundation and select from a vibrant inventory of 19 Strong logo apparel and other merchandise in the Foundation's online store.

Funds raised from the online giving initiative will support the ongoing mission of the 1890 Universities Foundation. This 501c3 charitable and educational organization mobilizes and manages resources to facilitate broad-based programs and initiatives across the 1890 universities system to close funding gaps generated by decades of historic underfunding of historically black colleges, including the 19 Black land-grant universities.

“The launch of our new [online giving initiative](#) will expand the Foundation's capacity to advocate for and support impactful programs throughout our 1890 university system, which transforms student lives and our communities. We are taking a strategic approach to growing and diversifying our resources to achieve the organization's sustainability now and into the future,” said 1890 Foundation President and CEO Dr. Mortimer Neufville.



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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](#)
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- [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, WVSU Research & Development Corporation, [Associ-](#)

[ate Dean/Associate Director for Research](#)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, College of Agricultural Sciences, [Senior Associate Dean](#)

FOUNDATION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE RESEARCH (FFAR), [Scientific Program Director](#), Next

Generation Crops

USDA FOREST SERVICE, SOUTHERN RESEARCH STATION, [Research Economist](#) or [Research For-](#)

[ester](#) to conduct research in in economics and policy focused on wildfire and other forest-based

disturbances. This is a permanent, full time position at the GS-12 level or the GS-13 level.



CALENDAR

[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

[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

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 21 – 23, 2023

Planned events include:
All events will be held on campus, unless otherwise noted.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
College of Agriculture and Family and Consumer Sciences Student Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Farmers' Forum
SC State 1890 Ag Partners Dinner
Camp Harry E. Daniels, Elloree, SC | Invitation Only

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
College of Agriculture and Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Breakfast
Invitation Only
Ag and Land-Grant Celebration Showcase
SC State Bulldogs v. Citadel Bulldogs
6:00 p.m. Kickoff

The full event schedule and other details are forthcoming.

Email scstate1890@scsu.edu for more information.

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