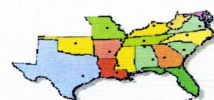


Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

The Joint CARET/AHS meeting took place in Washington, D.C. from February 20—24, 2010. There was very good representation from the 1890 universities and we are proud that our colleague, Dr. Alton Thompson of North Carolina A&T State University now serves as chair of the Academic Heads Section (AHS) of the BAA. On Monday, February 21st, the ESCOP meeting was also held.

Prior to CARET's annual trip to the Hill, our campuses were called upon to contact Members of the House and Senate to request that they formally submit forms to the Ag. Appropriations Committee asking for an increase from \$48.5 million to \$55 million for Evans-Allen, and from ~\$43 million to \$50 million for 1890 Extension. The two-pagers that you were to attach to your request letters would provide all the information needed for the "Member Request" form to be completed. However, when many of our campuses did as they were asked, contacting their government representatives, they were answered with emails stating they had to fill out forms themselves first. None of the forms were consistent and complexity of the forms ranged from low to extreme. This indeed did cause some frustration. When asked about this at the CARET meetings, we learned that these forms are usually required if your Congressman/woman is unfamiliar with you. Otherwise, they would have used the attachments you sent out and done their own "Member Request" form without further input from you. The final recommendation: deans, directors, administrators and CARET representatives must get to know the Congressional staff in either the Washington offices or in the state/regional offices. Get a relationship going so they will remember you, your name and your programs. We are not as politically savvy as we need to be yet, but we are getting there.

Sincerely,

Orlando F. McMeans, ARD Chair

1890 Facilities Grant Program

The 1890 Facilities Grant Program Request for Application (RFA) is now posted. The application submission deadline is **April 5, 2010**. In order to avoid delays due to any unforeseen circumstances, please submit your application as far ahead of the deadline as possible. Please download the application and instructions package from the following link:

<https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/UpdateOffer?id=16558>

After downloading the documents, review the RFA in full before electronically submitting. Instructions on how to submit are included in the RFA (Part IV).

REMINDER: 1890 Capacity Building Grant Program Workshops

At West Virginia State University for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University, Delaware State University, Kentucky State University, and North Carolina A&T State University.

At Alcorn State University for Southern University, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, Prairie View A&M University, and Langston and Lincoln Universities.

At Alabama A&M University for Tuskegee University, Florida A&M University, Tennessee State University, Fort Valley State University, and South Carolina State University.

Final dates to be announced.

ARD UPDATES



ARD and 2011 Research Symposium Planning Meeting

Do not forget to register at the Wynn Las Vegas Hotel for the spring meeting of the ARD and the planning meeting for the next Biennial Research Symposium. The meeting is scheduled for April 18—21st with the 18th and the 21st being travel days. The Wynn will hold our room block until March 15th, so please reserve ASAP since the rate for this exceptional hotel is \$129 per night plus taxes only until that final date. The group code is Association of Research Directors and the call in number is 877-321-9966. The hotel is located at 3131 Las Vegas Blvd. South.

We have invited the Executive Committee of the AEA and representatives from NIFA, APLU, and SASAESD to make presentations or to contribute to our discussions which will include the federal budget, the ESCOP Science Roadmap, thinking ahead for the next Farm Bill, and information exchanges as they relate to national and regional items that will impact the 1890 universities. We will adopt a revised Constitution and associated Bylaws, engage in discussions on our strategic plan, and then discuss in depth plans for and better ARD involvement in the next Biennial Research Symposium to be held at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, GA from April 9—13, 2011. As usual, there will also be a closed business meeting of the ARD on the final afternoon of the meeting. Please be reminded that you have been asked to engage your campuses in the review of the last ARD Strategic Plan and we need you to provide the input you receive to the 1890 Executive Director, Carolyn Brooks, by March 29, 2010.

NIFA Plans to Release Agriculture and Food Research Initiative RFA in March

The Priority Areas will be:

1. Keep American agriculture competitive while ending world hunger
2. Improve nutrition and end child obesity
3. Improve food safety for all Americans
4. Secure America's energy future through renewable biofuels
5. Mitigate and adapt agriculture to variations in climate

The grants can be up to \$25 million for five years and must be aimed at achieving significant and measurable outcomes. They must be integrated, i.e. basic and applied, collaborative, regional and have deliberate extension and/or education components. There will also be a new program entitled the "NIFA Fellows Program." Watch the NIFA.gov website for updates.

Opportunities

Program	Closing Date	Contact
IPM: Risk Avoidance and Mitigation	3/22/2010	Robert Nowierski rnowierski@nifa.usda.gov
Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) - developing individual and institutional leadership for a 21st Century food system.	Accepting applications now	http://www.fsli.org/index.cfm?showpage=179
Crops at Risk	3/22/2010	H.J. Rick Meyer hmeyer@nifa.usda.gov
Beginning Farmer and Rancher	4/06/2010	Siva Sureshwaran ssureshwaran@nifa.usda.gov