



Message from the Chair

When accepting the position of Chair of the Association of Research Directors, Inc. (ARD), I knew that one of my biggest challenges was to keep the lines of communication open and to keep the membership informed about ever changing scenarios and new information related to our land grant university family and how the information and changes impact each of our campuses. So much is constantly happening—on our individual campuses, at national and international levels and through our participation in the NASULGC structure as the Fifth Region of the Board on Agriculture

Assembly, and consequently our participation as members in the Experiment Station Section (ESS) and the State Agriculture Experiment Stations (SAES). To keep you all informed, as new issues need your attention and response and to notify you of changes and opportunities within the newly reorganized National Institute of Agriculture (NIFA), I have decided to send the ARD UPDATES at least monthly, but sometimes more frequently. I invite you to communicate with me at my email, mcmeanso@wvstateu.edu to provide me with information you wish to share with the membership.

I look forward to your ideas and comments about this new initiative as you help me to develop what I hope will be a very useful new communication avenue.

Sincerely,

Orlando F. McMeans,
Chair



The 15th Biennial Research Symposium

The ARD's hosting of The 15th Biennial Research Symposium is a major endeavor, but one the association is proud of and considers extremely valuable. Much progress has been made as the Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Al Parks, has been overseeing all the details that go into making this another successful conference. We owe our campuses a great deal of thanks for supporting this initiative wholeheartedly. We are on track to repeat the success of the 2006 symposium with more than 800 registrants and

~500 oral and poster presentations to be rendered. More than half of these presentations will be those of our students. This is an excellent educational opportunity for them to showcase their innovative and practical research findings in the food and agricultural sciences. The symposium website has been updated to provide you with enough information to plan well and to know what to expect in terms of the symposium agenda. Please review the website periodically www.ard1890symposium.org to find information about ground transportation, park-

ing of university buses, information about exhibitors and instructions for those presenting papers and posters. Once the preliminary program is ready, it will be placed on the website so you can download it before coming to Atlanta.

Thanks to the Steering Committee for all the hard work!



McIntire - Stennis Eligibility for the 1890s

The McIntire – Stennis (M-S) Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-788) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture “to encourage and assist the several States in carrying on a program of forestry research, and for other purposes.” While the program is administered by CSREES, an annual appropriation is made by Congress and is distributed to institutions designated by the Governor of each state and territory. In the 2008 Farm Bill, the 1890 land grant universities became eligible to receive M-S funds. However, the distribution of funds within the state is determined by the Governor or the Governor’s Designee, not by the USDA.

The M-S funds must be used to support the following areas of investigation:

- 1) Reforestation and management of land for timber and forest products,
- 2) Management of forest and watershed to improve water flow, yield and quality,

- 3) Management of forest and related rangeland for livestock, game and wildlife,
- 4) Protection of forest resources against fire, insects, diseases and other destructive agents,
- 5) Management of forest lands for outdoor recreation,
- 6) Utilization of wood and other forest products,
- 7) Development of sound policies for the management of forest lands, and harvesting and marketing of forest products.

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Because the 1890 eligibility comes with no proposed increase in the funding, the BAC is requesting an increase to \$30 million for 2010. Otherwise, the previous recipients will be unable to maintain their current level of services and the funds for the new recipients would be minimal.

Drafted themes have been developed by the land grant community for the FY2011 funding cycle for NIFA funding. Currently the proposed themes are:

- Competitive, Sustainable and Productive American Agriculture*
- Food Systems, Nutrition and Wellness*
- Sustainable and Renewable Resources*
- Workforce Development and Education*

New Leaders and Appointments

We welcome Dr. Barry Bequette, the new Dean of the School of Agriculture, Research, Extension and Applied Sciences at Alcorn State University and Dr. Alton Johnson as Interim Director of Research.

New appointments for ARD representation have been made: ESCOP delegates from ARD are Drs. Orlando McMeans, Govindarajan Kannan (Fort Valley State University), and Alfred Parks (Prairie View A&M University). The ARD representative on the Southern Region SARE/ACE Advisory Committee is Dr. Zachary Senwo (Alabama A&M University). The new appointment to the Southern Rural Development Center’s Board of Directors is Dr. Kimberly Holmes (Kentucky State University) and on its Technical Operations and Advisory Committee (TOAC) is Dr. Enifiok Ekanem (Tennessee State University). Dr. Samuel Donald has been appointed by CARET to be the liaison for the Minority Serving Institutions.