

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

The recent ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop in Oklahoma City, OK allowed us to participate in refining the research priorities or themes for the land grant system. Through a survey, the directors came up with the following as top choices: 1.) Bio-energy, Feedstocks and Conversion; 2) Environmental stewardship, water quantity and quality; 3) Value added products; 4) Health and Nutrition, Cultural Consumption Practices; 5) Food and Health; 6) Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation; 7) Food Safety; and 8) Food Security and World Hunger. At our upcoming ARD Winter Workshop in Key West, it will be important for us to discuss how well our campuses are positioned to address these national priorities and to also identify priorities that are unique to the 1890 universities and our stakeholders. Therefore, we will engage in a strategic planning session. Additionally, at the January workshop in Key West, staff from NIFA who are responsible for administrative and financial reviews as they relate to cooperative agreements, grant awards, formula funds, and the following of policies and procedures will provide a workshop, especially to address FAQs and common deficiencies. The representatives will come from the following NIFA Branches: Awards Management, Policy and Oversight, and Financial Operations.

The Executive Committee has also been planning the agenda for the ARD session to be held during the APLU annual meeting in Washington, DC November 15-17, 2009. The ARD meeting will be Monday, Nov. 16th at 4:45p.m. Finally, plans are in full swing for the 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD meeting in Nashville, TN on September 27-30, 2010. We urgently need your help and participation because the ARD is the host for this meeting and workshop. Much thanks to the TSU administrators for assisting us with on site planning. And - *lets get ready for the 2011 Symposium!*

Sincerely,

Orlando F. McMeans, ARD Chair



Capacity Building Grants

While it is still **not final**, for planning purposes, there are at least six major changes that have been proposed for the FY 2010 RFA:

- A maximum of 24 applications can be submitted per institution
- Stand alone Extension applications are eligible
- New funding is available for integrated applications
- Use of a logic model for the application is recommended

- There will be no limit on the number of applications submitted by a PD
- The USDA Cooperator Letter will no longer be required

High priority areas will be human health and obesity as it relates to nutrition, bio-energy/biofuel, food safety, water quality, ag. biosecurity, rural communities, sustainable agriculture and youth and family development. Also, the highest maximum project budgets will be for integrated proposals which can be for a maximum of \$600,000.

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NIFA (Formerly CSREES) Organization Structure



Science Education Research Development (SERD) includes competitively awarded research, extension, and academic programs for minority-serving institutions; formula-funded research and extension funds for the 1890 land-grant universities; federal facilities grants for the 1890s; a broad range of international programs and projects; and the Agriculture in the Classroom Program. SERD is made up of three distinct, but related, sub-units:

Higher Education—Oversees a range of programs enhancing teaching, curriculum, and human capital development in the food and agricultural sciences from kindergarten to postgraduate studies.

Multicultural Alliances—Directs academic, extension, and research programs in the food and agricultural sciences, with a focus on minority-serving institutions.

International Programs—Coordinates overseas development projects and programs, in collaboration with U.S. colleges and universities, to bring an understanding of international issues to the nation's campuses and communities.

A&T Food Scientist Named Director of Research Center



Dr. Mohamed Ahmedna, professor of food science at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, has been named director of the Center of Excellence for Post-Harvest Technologies at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. The Kannapolis Campus is a world-class biopolis dedicated to researching the connection between nutrition and human health, and developing products to improve health. The Center, administered by the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at N.C. A&T, serves the mission of the Campus by focusing on researching and developing new processes to improve food safety and nutrition, and new products from fruits and vegetables, especially those grown in North Carolina.

Ahmedna joined the faculty of A&T in 2000, with a research focus on product development. During his tenure at the University, he has published extensively and been involved in 17 multidisciplinary research projects funded for more than \$5 million. He is the A&T campus coordinator for the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute, and a member of the University Research Council. Among his many awards is the George Washington Carver Agricultural Excellence Award from the United States Agency for International Development, which was presented in 2005 in recognition of his research on peanuts, conducted in collaboration with the nation of Senegal. One of his most notable inventions is a patent-protected post-harvest process that inactivates allergens in whole peanuts.