

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

We have heard from several of you that our Key West workshop was one in which you learned a lot, and also felt it was an excellent networking opportunity. There is much to learn from each other and we will continue to set aside time at each of our meetings to share best practices. The ARD website has been updated to alert you to upcoming meetings for your planning purposes. Please be sure to contact me as issues, opportunities and challenges arise that you need brought to the attention of the Association. Our meeting agendas must be of importance to you and thus I value your input as the Executive Committee plans for upcoming meetings.

As we plan to host the September ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop, I remind you all to send to our Executive Director, Carolyn Brooks (cbbrooks@umes.edu), the following:

- Two representative photos of your campus, one that characterizes your university and a second would be a photo of one of your land-grant program buildings/facilities
- Brief characterizations of the strongest research initiatives at your Agriculture Experiment Station
- Your current **campus** student enrollment
- Briefly describe a research partnership or collaboration that you have with one or more 1862 universities and indicate if you would recommend that partnership to be highlighted and presented during the time allotted to the 1890s to showcase research programs.

I close my remarks by thanking you for your outstanding participation at our Winter Workshop in Key West. This participation resulted in an extremely rewarding, productive and successful activity.

Sincerely,

Orlando F. McMeans, ARD Chair



Capacity Building Grants—2010

This is another reminder to submit your Capacity Building Grant proposals as early as possible and not wait for a last minute rush to beat the closing date. Hopefully you have received the emails from Dr. Ali Mohamed announcing webinars and workshops on selected campuses through which you may ask questions and learn more about this 1890 competitive program. For further information see www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/1890capacity.cfm. Additionally, since there are many changes in the 2010 RFA, the ARD is requesting that each campus begin to compile comments related to the program that would constitute requests for changes for the 2011 RFA. Such comments should come from individuals, individual campuses and from the ARD and AEA. If you wish to submit such comments please use the following website for instructions:

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder.html>

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Strategic Planning

As the ARD undergoes the process of Strategic Planning, the Association needs the input of campuses to make sure the plan is properly aligned with the aspirations, objectives and capabilities of the member institutions, and also must take into consideration the ESS Science Roadmap for Food and Agriculture and the priority funding areas of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). These Challenges and priority areas are listed below.

First Draft of the ESS Science and Technology Committee states that the Grand Challenges for the Science Roadmap for Food and Agriculture are:

- We must enhance the sustainability, competitiveness, and profitability of U.S. food and agricultural systems.
- We must adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on food, feed, fiber and fuel systems in the U.S.
- We must support energy security and the development of the bio-economy from renewable natural resources in the U.S.
- We must play a global leadership role to ensure a safe, secure, and abundant food supply for the U.S. and the world.
- We must improve human health, nutrition and wellness of the U.S. population.
- We must heighten environmental stewardship through the development of sustainable management practices.
- We must strengthen individual, family and community development and resilience.

NIFA's National Priority Areas

- Global Food Security and Hunger (agriculture production to meet food demand and fight hunger)
- Climate Change (adapt to changing environments and sustain economic vitality)
- Sustainable Energy (develop biomass use for fuels and produce value-added bio-based industrial products)
- Childhood Obesity (nutritious foods that are affordable and available; education about health/well-being)
- Food Safety (reduce incidence of food-borne illnesses and develop food processes that improve safety).

The above information is also crucial as individual campuses review or revise their own Agriculture Experiment Station strategic plans.

Opportunities

Program	Closing Date	Contact
LEAD21 Class of 2010-2011- develops leaders in land grant institutions and their strategic partners who link research, academics, and extension in order to lead more effectively in an increasingly complex environment.	January 31, 2010	http://www.fanning.uga.edu/prog/lead21/
Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) - developing individual and institutional leadership for a 21st Century food system. This program is an upper level intensive executive leadership training effort building on LEAD21.	Accepting applications now	http://www.fsli.org/index.cfm?showpage=179
Multistate Research Award for Excellence- to publicly recognize high quality multistate research	February 26, 2010	Submit to Carolyn Brooks
Higher Education Challenge Grants	February 5, 2010	Gregory Smith