



# Message from the Chair



Dear Colleagues:

Recently I represented the ARD with the leadership from the other four ESS regions to meet with Dr. Roger Beachy, Director of NIFA. I considered this a very productive meeting and came away with optimism after hearing responses from him to some of our questions. Below are some of the notes that were taken from his responses:

The business model institutions use to fund research is changing dramatically, including new and different funding sources. We are finding that more often salaries are supported by soft funds, particularly support positions.

Currently there is some pressure for NIFA to provide more plant science funding. Because it appears likely that NSF will support less of the type of basic research that underpins the agricultural enterprise. One option AFRI is considering is to increase funding for basic research and allow the full overhead rate, and also to increase capacity funds (formula funds) at a lesser overhead rate than AFRI, to support applied research.

Positive statements regarding capacity (formula) funds have been made recently in meetings with OSTP, as well as pointing out how critical these funds are to the land grant universities. The White House is being told that NIFA has been making commendable changes and therefore, to help increase the coffers, the land grant community needs to stand together and support all parts of the NIFA budget in order to effectively implement these changes.

We need to show the White House that some of the capacity (formula) funds are being used toward the grand challenges. Institutions do not need to use all formula funds toward the national goals, but NIFA needs to know how much is being used in these areas. However it is true that if researchers' programs are aligned with one of these national goals they're more likely to be successful in AFRI.

Individual investigator grants are very important to the success of the faculty and the agriculture research enterprise in general. The AFRI goal is to provide 30% of its funding for individual investigator grants and 70% for larger team grants beginning with the next RFA.

The new NIFA organizational chart should be available soon. NIFA will be hiring four eminent scientists to help lead the four sub-institutes and would look forward to nominations for these positions. Finally, Dr. Beachy welcomes the opportunity for regular 2-way communication with ESCOP. Meryl Broussard will be Dr. Beachy's liaison to ESCOP and the intent is to work with Dr. Broussard to set up a regular monthly conference call with the ESCOP Chair and Executive Director. As you know, I will become the ESCOP Chair in September. I will look forward to hearing from you on a regular basis about issues to bring to the forefront with Dr. Beachy.

Sincerely,

Orlando McMeans, Chair



## Upcoming Events

***Stakeholder meeting on Capacity Building Grant Program—July 27, 2010 in Atlanta***

**2011 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop—September 26 –29th in Nashville, TN**

**2011 Biennial Research Symposium—April 9—13, 2011 in Atlanta.**

# ARD UPDATES



## 2011 ARD Biennial Research Symposium

The Steering Committee for the 2011 Symposium requests the assistance of the ARD:

- in finding outstanding speakers who would appeal to the varied 1890 community for the opening and/or plenary sessions of the symposium
- in identifying interesting programming for the Tuesday afternoon sessions, i.e. break-out sessions to plan collaborations, networking sessions, informational sessions that introduce attendees to funding opportunities, etc.
- in finding ways to ensure that students will participate fully in symposium activities and not assume they are finished once their presentations have been given
- by providing direct oversight and thorough reviews of the abstracts that will be uploaded for oral and poster presentations. Particularly review them for adherence to the required format and to make sure the content fits the focus areas

The symposium deadlines will be as follows:

- Closing date for abstract submissions - November 19, 2010 by midnight
- Early registration (\$475) until the close of business (COB) on December 17, 2010
- Regular registration (\$500) begins December 18th until COB February 25th
- Late registration (\$550) begins February 26th through onsite registration

All campuses will again be given space and exhibit set-up needs free of charge. However if the internet is required, that cost would be charged to the exhibitor. After the first free campus exhibit and for non-1890s, the exhibitors fee will be \$1500 which includes registration.

The website will be in place soon for all other symposium details.

The focus areas selected for the oral and poster presentations are:

- Human Health, Nutrition and Obesity Prevention
- Food safety and Global Food Security
- Sustainable Production Systems
  - Plant Systems
  - Animal Systems
- Family, Youth, Community and Economic Development
- Renewable Resources, Bioenergy and Environmental Stewardship



### Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Stakeholder Meeting

Beginning at 8 am on July 27th representatives from the 1890s will convene at the Airport Embassy Suites in Atlanta to discuss the 2010 outcomes from the CBG funding cycle. Since at least two and no more than four representatives per campus can be accommodated, the campus representation should come prepared to speak from the campus perspectives. Details were sent by email to the ARD, but if questions materialize, please contact the ARD Chair or Executive Director.

This year 332 proposals were submitted for CBG funding; 159 were research proposals, 111 were teaching proposals, and 62 were extension proposals. Of those submitted, 35 were integrated proposals, 81 were joint proposals, and 216 were single applications. The success rate for overall funding was 35%, and 47 teaching proposals were funded, 46 research and 24 extension proposals were funded.

To prevent some of the problematic issues in the future, Dr. Ali Mohamed recommends better quality control of applications by Research Directors or their designees and submission of proposals ahead of the deadline.