

Message from the Chair



ARD UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

By now you have finished the process of getting the Capacity Building Grants in and many of you are also heavily involved in the May graduations on your campuses. The most current ARD initiative is to move forward with one or more ARD consortia. The deadline to receive the proposals was April 30th and I am pleased to inform you that four of the five teams met the deadline and thus will be considered for the seed grant funds. The difficult decision of what and how much to fund awaits us.

The Executive Committee is planning for the upcoming summer meeting in Washington, D.C. to be held August 7—10, 2012 at the Ritz Carlton, Pentagon City. **Please make your reservations as soon as possible.** On one afternoon we will all travel to the USDA Waterfront Center so that we can meet with many of the National Program Leaders and you will also have the opportunity to meet with other NIFA offices to handle individual campus issues.

The Symposium Steering Committee for 2013 has not officially met. This start-up meeting will hopefully be scheduled for early June. On page 2 are dates to remember. I hope the end of the school year at your campus comes with the celebration of a record number of graduates.

Sincerely,

Dyremples Marsh, ARD Chair



Message from Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Acting NIFA Director

“This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as President Lincoln’s signing of the Morrill Act, which created the Land-Grant University System. The many celebrations that are occurring throughout the system are a great opportunity to reflect on our past, to acknowledge our current reality, and to plan for the challenges on the horizon. Fortunately, NIFA, in collaboration with our partners, is working to meet the food and agricultural challenges of the 21st century.

On May 7, we will welcome Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy as the Director of NIFA, and I will return to my role as the Director of the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist. I want to thank each of you for all of the support you have shown me and the NIFA team. This past year has been both challenging and rewarding as we have worked to maximize organizational and managerial effectiveness while continuing to deliver excellent service to our stakeholders. We have accomplished much.

Thank you again for your support of agricultural science and the recognition of the critical role we play in strengthening food and agricultural science and research.”

Reminder: The Annual NIFA Administrative Officers’ Workshop - Morgantown, WVA, May 20-May 23, 2012

To register go to: <http://neraoc.ext.wvu.edu/registration> The registration site is located here: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1003159>

The entire conference website information is located here: <http://neraoc.ext.wvu.edu/>

Please visit the ARD website- www.umes.edu/ard or contact us using cbbrooks@umes.edu

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Juliette B. Bell Appointed President of University of Maryland Eastern Shore Dr. Bell is An Accomplished Academic Leader and Biochemist

Dr. Juliette B. Bell has been appointed as president of the University of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Bell is provost and vice president for academic affairs at Central State University in Wilberforce, OH. Her appointment is effective July 1, 2012. Bell, a biochemist, is recognized as a strong advocate for increasing the number of minority scientists. She has dedicated much of her career to providing opportunities for students to participate in scientific research.

Dr. Bell has 20 years of higher education experience. Prior to joining Central State, she was interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Winston-Salem State University. A Talladega, AL native, Bell was the first in her family to attend college, earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Talladega College. She earned her Ph.D. in chemistry with a biochemistry concentration from Atlanta University (now Clark-Atlanta University) and post-doctorate in biochemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following her post-doctoral fellowship, she worked as a senior staff fellow and as a research biologist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, NC.



In 1992, she began her higher education teaching and research career in chemistry as a Department of Natural Sciences faculty member and director of biomedical research at Fayetteville State University. There, she advanced to serving as founding dean of the university's College of Basic and Applied Sciences from 2004 to 2006 and as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs from 2006-2008 prior to her interim appointment at Winston-Salem State.

Upcoming Meetings for 2012

Executive Committee Fly-in—May 16-17, Atlanta, GA

Administrative Officer's Workshop—May 20-23, Morgantown, WVA

AEA 2012 System-wide Conference—June 24-28, Memphis, TN

150th Celebration: Morrill Act Convocation and Kick-off of the Smithsonian land grant displays on the Mall—June 25-29, Washington, DC

Joint Cops Meeting—July 25-26, Savannah, GA

ARD Summer Meeting—August 7-10, Washington, DC

Task Force Meeting—September 10-12, Tuskegee University

ESS/SAES/ARD Annual Meeting—September 24-27, Portsmouth, NH

Annual APLU Meeting—November 11-13, Denver, CO

PAWC—December 2-4, Tuskegee University

**Memorial
Day**

Federal Budget and Farm Bill Updates

The Senate Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition Committee have marked up the 2012 Farm Bill and reported the bill to the full Senate for further consideration. Everything requested by the ARD has been favorably received. That would include the McIntire-Stennis language to state that "The matching funds requirement shall not be applicable to eligible 1890 Institutions if the allocation is below \$200,000." What the committee did not accept, as was requested by the 1862s, is to increase the NIFA indirect cost rate. The Committee left it at the 2008 rate of 22%.

Thus far the Senate FY2013 Markup Appropriations Bill leaves the formula funds the 1890s receive at the same level as was received for FY2012. Will keep you informed if changes come forth.