Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues:

Upon the conclusion of every symposium that I have attended, I hear the comment—"This was the best symposium ever." Yes, I think we all agree this 2013 symposium made us all proud, and it probably was the best one yet. But that must always be our goal, to make the next one better. We must use what we learn from missteps made at previous events, listen to suggestions for improvement from our attendees, and should repeat enhancements tried that were successful, and use those experiences and that new knowledge to make sure that our symposia are worth the hundreds of hours of work we pour into them.

I make these comments because by all accounts all seventeen (17) of our symposia have been wonderful. Not just because we continue to meet our goal of ‘providing a forum for interactions, knowledge sharing, building networks for expanded partnerships and showcasing the talents and achievements of the 1890 community,” …..but we continue to be fortunate enough to have 100% support from the ARD. We continue to benefit from even more congenial volunteers who totally fulfill every assignment. The symposium volunteers have and continue to be dedicated, extremely competent and have the will to go beyond the call of duty. So yes, I am sure improvements will be seen every time we host a symposium, and that should be expected. But maybe we should just say—“another great symposium!” instead of this was the best ever. It was my fervent hope that our attendees would find the 17th Biennial research symposium exciting, educational, impactful and enjoyable. I certainly found it to be all of these things and more. Sincerest thanks to all who made it so - the participants, the presenters, the sponsors, the exhibitors, the volunteers, and of course, the ARD.

Sincerely,

Shirley Hymon-Parker, Chair

The FY2014 Federal Budget: In the President’s budget for NIFA for FY2014 you will notice that the Institution Challenge Grant, the Multicultural Scholars and Graduate Fellowships Grants, the Secondary Education/2-YearPost Secondary Grants, and initiatives like Ag in the Classroom were zeroed out. The intent, according to Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, is to merge some of the nation’s large number of federal educational programs so that they can be administered by the NSF and the Department of Education. This proposal is still evolving.

125th Anniversary Celebration

Planning has begun for the 125th Anniversary of the 1890 Universities in 2015 in Washington, DC. Dr. Walter Hill, Chair of the 1890 Deans’ Council is the chair of the Task Force leading this effort. Dr. Hill is soliciting bold ideas and suggestions to make this a year long celebration with ideas for events to capture our history, our legacy, and our indispensability to the nation—now and in the future. Please send your ideas to Dr. Carolyn B. Brooks at cbbrooks@umes.edu or Dr. L.W. Lyons at lwlyons@ncat.edu.
New Award Announced:
Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Leadership

Purpose

To recognize those who have served the Experiment Station Section (ESS) and the national Land-Grant System with exemplary distinction. Through this person's leadership, he/she shall have personified the highest level of excellence by enhancing the cause and performance of the ESS in achieving its mission and the Land-Grant ideal.

Award and Presentation

The award shall be signified by the creation of a suitably inscribed piece approved by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Executive Committee and presented to the recipient or his/her proxy at the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) annual meeting and will be further memorialized by a resolution to be read during the ESS fall meeting. The home institution shall be made aware of the recognition by formal letter from the ESCOP Chair to the Chief Executive Officer of the institution and its governing body (Board of Trustees, Board of Regents, etc.) with others copied as appropriate.

Eligibility

Eligible for this award are former or current Directors or Associate Directors, who have provided service in a State Agricultural Experiment Station (SAES) as assistant director, associate director, director, or as chief operating officers with equivalent but variant titles (e.g. vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor, associate vice president, dean for research) and/or as a regional executive director. This award is distinctive in its expectations and not necessarily coincident with retirement, election to specific office or any other specific professional benchmark.

Nominations

Nominations shall include a statement of accomplishments prepared by the nominator(s) unbeknownst to the candidate and supported by letters from three (3) to five (5) former or current members of the ESS. Other letters of support from the home and other institutions may be submitted with the discretion of the nominator(s). Nominations shall address the contributions of the nominee to the land-grant ideal through service to include offices held, committee assignments, other service and, in particular special and extraordinary service activities. Such service should include for example: active participation in affairs of the ESCOP; regional, national and/or international special assignments with distinctive performance that has advanced the mission of the ESS and the land-grant ideal; and research in the sciences related to agriculture. Although testimony as to the nominee's contributions to his/her home state and institution are welcomed, they are not pivotal to assessing the contributions to the section and related activities.

Submission and Review

Nominations for the recognition should be submitted to the Regional Associations by February 1 of each year. The regional associations will review the nominations, select and submit one nominee to the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee by May 1. The Committee will then review the regional nominations and recommend a national winner to the ESCOP Executive Committee by June 1. The Executive Committee will select the national winner and submit it to the APLU by July 1. The winner will be announced at the fall ESS meeting and the award will be presented at the APLU annual meeting.