Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues:

I think we are all pleased with the progress being made on initiatives to be implemented in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Signing of the Second Morrill Act. At the ARD meeting in August we viewed the first draft of the video being developed; we have finalized the logo and ordered lapel pins. Tentatively we have determined that “1890 Day” will take place on all campuses on April 23, 2015. We will have the anniversary kick-off with a display and the showing of the video at the 2014 APLU annual meeting in Orlando, FL. Our new website, www.1890universities.org, is anticipated to go live the first week of October and the toolkit will be available at this site to allow all campuses to share the same instructions, information, messaging, documents, images, photos, etc. Of course we will still have our national events in Washington, DC on July 15-16, 2015 and we will continuously update you on this. What has been most gratifying however is the outpouring of support and sense of family this has brought about. We are very excited that our sister land-grant universities, our government and corporate partners, and the sections of the Board on Ag. Assembly of APLU have been offering support and inviting us to be a part of programs and conferences so that they can participate and celebrate along with us. While we certainly want to market the 1890 land-grant universities, we will also use 2015 to market the land-grant system and of course our USDA partners. Our successes will be theirs as well.

Sincerely,

Shirley Hymon-Parker, ARD Chair

Reminder:
As of the end of August there are 41 impact statements posted on the ARD website: http://www.umes.edu/ard/Default.aspx?id=46285. Additionally September 4, 2014 is the deadline to send Cathy Gant Hill at least two success stories from your campus. Instructions were sent to you by email, but please contact Mrs. Hill at chill@ncat.edu if you need additional information. As a result of developing success stories, NIFA developed the following blog about research going on at North Carolina A&T State University, and it has been picked up widely by national media.

NIFA Blog
Researchers at North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) are on the verge of leveling the playing field for millions who suffer allergies from peanuts and wheat. Now, in addition to being able to nosh on some of America’s favorite foods, allergy sufferers may also take advantage of the valuable nutrients these staples provide.

Dr. Jianmae Yu, a food and nutrition researcher at NC A&T’s School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, and her team found a way to treat peanuts and reduce their allergens by 98 to 100 percent. The treatment is effective whether peanuts are whole, broken into pieces, or ground into flour. Their research, which has proven effective in peanuts and shows promise in wheat, also has the potential to reduce foodborne allergens in tree nuts. Work is supported with funding through an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative grant.
ARD UPDATES

New funding Opportunity from AFRI

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational Program: Exploratory

This new program area encourages continuous development of innovative ideas that will position US Agriculture at the global forefront. These developments will lead to quantum leaps in the agricultural fields. They will address the challenges that have never been addressed before in the areas of food security, climate change, environmental quality and natural resources, nutrition, obesity, food safety, strong families and vibrant communities, and thriving youth. Ten percent of AFRI funding is set aside for Strengthening Grants and Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants.

As with the other Foundational Programs, this one provides allowances for FASE-eligible institutions like the 1890s. FASE Grants consist of New Investigator Grants, Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants, and Strengthening Grants. Strengthening Grants are further divided into Sabbatical Grants, Equipment Grants, Seed Grants, Strengthening Standard Grants, Strengthening CAP (Coordinated Agricultural Project) Grants and Strengthening Conference Grants. Ten percent of AFRI funding is set aside for Strengthening Grants and Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants.

Due Date: September 30, 2014
Total Program Funding: ~$2,000,000.00
Range of Awards: Up to $100,000
Cost Sharing Requirements: Required for equip. grants
Contact: mbowers@nifa.usda.gov (Michael Bowers)
Funding Opportunity #: USDA-NIFA-AFRI-004412
CFDA Number: 10.310—AFRI

2014 Allocation Table for Recommended CBG Applications

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AAMU CARET Representative Receives White House Award

Fourth-generation farmer Bill Bridgeforth’s dedication to agriculture was recognized last month when he traveled to Washington, D.C., as a guest of the White House. He was dubbed an agricultural “Champion of Change,” along with 14 other agricultural leaders from around the nation by the White House and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The award is given to those making strides to encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers. As chairman of the National Black Growers Council, he is a civic leader in the effort to improve efficiency, sustainability and productivity of black farmers, which according to the 2007, Census of Agriculture account for 1.3 percent of the U.S. farming community. His philanthropic work includes supporting his alma mater, Alabama A&M University. He is a member of AAMU’s Agriculture Advisory Board and is on the executive board of the national organization Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching. Bridgeforth loves farming and his family farms 10,000 acres, growing cotton, corn, wheat, soybeans and canola. After receiving the award, Mr. Bridgeforth said, “I accept this award on behalf of the entire Bridgeforth family,” he said. “I think this award is a testament to our Christian faith. We put God first and then family. We work hard, give back to our community and just try to do the right thing.”