

ARD Updates

ASSOCIATION OF 1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS

October 2021, Vol. 12, Issue 10



Message from the Chair Dr. Chandra Reddy

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Relative to the 2021 ESS/ARD Fall Meeting, I need to express my sincere appreciation to Moses Kaori (ESCOPE chair and dean, School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore), and the ESS planning committee for an outstanding and professionally rewarding meeting and workshops. The theme of our meeting, "Disruptive Innovation," was very timely and the four workshops were well planned and delivered by expert panels. The ARD members were inspired to have some of these topics and/or sessions incorporated into our upcoming ARD Research Symposium in the spring.

Appropriately titled, this meeting was based largely on the book "Intellectual Anarchy: The Art of Disruptive Innovation," written by Patrick K. Sullivan. This theme was explicit in the four sessions: (1) Emerging from the Pandemic-Innovation Necessary to Sustain Higher Education; (2) No-Boundary Thinking and the use of Transdisciplinary, Diverse Team; (3) Agricultural Research is the Solution to Climate Change; and (4) Leading Across Differences: Diversity, Inclusion and You. I should note that in the first session, our own Dr. Orlando McMeans, vice chancellor and dean of the Southern Agricultural Research and Extension Center, was one of the panelists. As usual, Orlando did a superb job.

Relative to the ARD business meeting, the discussion with Dr. Carrie Castille, NIFA director, the 2023 Farm Bill and Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) were three important agenda items that I want to focus on briefly.

At both the ARD and ESS business meetings, Dr. Castille focused on the importance of the **partnership** and intentionally **strengthening the partnership**. Dr. Castille sees ESS and CES as key **partners**, not as stakeholders...there is a difference. Dr. Castille expressed her sincere gratitude to the ARD and ESS directors for their support in relocating NIFA to Kansas City and for forwarding any pro-

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USDA seeks equity commission members

USDA announced it would establish an Equity Commission and requested nominations for membership on the Equity Commission Advisory Committee and Equity Commission Subcommittee on Agriculture. The Notice represents an important step towards implementing President Biden's commitment to creating an Equity Commission and the American Rescue Plan Act provision that directs USDA to "address historical discrimination and disparities in the agriculture sector... [through] one or more equity commissions to address racial equity issues within USDA and its programs."

The Equity Commission will advise the Secretary of Agriculture by identifying USDA programs, policies, systems, structures and practices that contribute to barriers to inclusion or access, systemic discrimination, or exacerbate or perpetuate racial, economic, health and social disparities. The Subcommittee on Agriculture will be formed concurrently and will report back to the Equity Commission and provide recommendations on issues of concern related to agriculture. Subsequent subcommittees will focus on other policy areas, such as rural community and economic development. The Equity Commission will deliver an interim report and provide actionable recommendations no later than 12 months after inception. A final report will be generated within a two-year timeframe.

USDA is soliciting nominations to consider membership on

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USDA TO ESTABLISH EQUITY COMMISSION

- ADDRESSING RACIAL EQUITY
- EQUITY COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- EQUITY COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE ON AG
- USDA SOLICITING NOMINATIONS FOR BOTH

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Ag research infrastructure funding efforts continue

Below is a memo, co-authored by Glenda Humiston, ESCOP Budget and Legislative Chair and Tom Coon, Board of Agricultural Assembly's Policy Board of Directors Chair, that I issued to the ESS membership and our stakeholders regarding the current status of ARIA.

The Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) is a bold initiative by the APLU Board on Agriculture Experiment Station Section (ESS) to request that Congress support an agricultural research infrastructure investment at U.S. colleges of agriculture. Throughout the ARIA campaign, the ESS has asked congressional champions to ensure the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to waive matching requirements and consider geography and equity in program administration.

In mid-September, the House Agriculture Committee provided \$3.65 billion supporting the [Research Facilities Act \(RFA\)](#). The reconciliation bill text sent to the budget committee included RFA grants for construction, modernization, renovation and acquisition of agricultural research facilities. The bill text also waives requirements that institutions provide a match of federal funding and has an equity

set aside.

The President, House and Senate leadership and key members continue to debate the reconciliation package before releasing the final bill text. We expect that the debate will continue into October.

Given that the total cost is still fluctuating, it is helpful to maintain awareness of the RFA in engaging with members of Congress, expressing gratitude for support when it is appropriate to do so. Additionally, institutions can create awareness about the documented need for facilities maintenance via tweets and Op-Eds. The ARIA advisory group has put together the following resources for use and consideration:

- [RFA Talking points](#)
- [RFA Tweets](#)



DR. MOSES KAIRO

NIFA shares details of reporting system updates

The NIFA Reporting System (NRS) team appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with our university partners during the development of the new application. Users can expect to see new features added to the NRS, refinement of existing features, and a first look at the new reporting module in the coming weeks.

The NRS team is proud to announce a successful release to the application (release 2.4). This release marks a major milestone in incorporating all capacity funding types into a single system. Below are highlights of features included within this release:

Other capacity initiations – All active projects for three other capacity programs have now been migrated into the NRS – Animal Health and Disease Research, McIntire-Stennis, and Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) – along with their Project Directors. Users may now initiate projects within the NRS. As a reminder, for the projects that are not continuing into the new fiscal year, or were completed before Sept. 30, you will complete your final reporting within REEport.

Saving classification entries – NRS has made additional improvements to the project classification section. Users will now receive error notifications when information is improperly entered into the form.

Improvements to the character counter – The NRS team has completed the character counter improvement that now provides a buffer warning when reaching the upper limit characters within a form section. Users will now see both an initial warning when approaching the maximum character count and then a final warning when they've gone over the limit.

Accession number - All NRS projects will now display an accession number. All projects that were moved over from REEport will retain their original number.

Program dashboard enhancement - The NRS team has enhanced the project/program dashboard for increased usability. The dashboard now has a new field in which users can view when a

project/program page was last updated.

Export feature – The NRS team has resolved the export feature bug, in which an error message appeared when exporting a CSV of projects/programs. Users can now export individual project and program entries as well as a spreadsheet of all projects and programs associated with their LGU.

The team is currently working on developing additional features for future releases including:

National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) –

The NRS team is working to add the NIMMS project in-

formation to the Hatch Multistate project initiation process. Please note that legacy data from existing projects will be migrated from REEport into NRS.

Dashboard improvements - Enhancements are being made to the project/program dashboard list views. Currently, LGUs are able to view all project/programs associated with their LGU. The enhanced view will mirror the updates to the individual program/project pages, where users will be able to view the accession number and the date the page was last updated.

We will keep LGU users updated as we continue to develop the application and add new functionalities.

For any questions or concerns, [please click on this link](#): If you have additional questions and concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to pon@usda.gov or contact Dr. Lynn Khadiagala, Planning and Program Evaluation Lead, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Lynn.Khadiagala@usda.gov





1890 CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

In the 2018 Farm Bill, the Congress and the Administration supported the creation of Centers of Excellence across the 1890 Research, Extension and Education System. Specifically, the Farm Bill listed six centers and authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to allocate \$10 million each year to implement at least three of the six centers:

- Student Success and Workforce Development
- Global Food Security and Defense
- Health, Wellness and Quality of Life
- Farming System, Rural Prosperity and Economic Sustainability
- Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment
- Emerging Technologies.

The mission of these Centers of Excellence is to foster and coordinate research, Extension and education programs consistent with USDA/NIFA priorities and programs.

To date, only the first four of these centers have been funded. The Center of Excellence for Student Success and Workforce Development and the Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense were featured in the September 2021 edition of ARD Updates. The Center of Excellence for Health, Wellness and Quality of Life hosted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is featured below:

Southern University progresses on health/wellness center

In July 2021, USDA's NIFA awarded a \$1,768,000 grant to Southern University and other 1890 partners to support the tripartite land-grant's mission of research, teaching and Extension to contribute solutions to improve the health and well-being of underserved and minority populations. With this grant, the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC), one of the five campuses of the Southern University System in partnership with North Carolina A&T State University, Tuskegee University, other 1890 universities and the 1890 Universities Foundation, established the Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness and Quality of Life (NHWQL). Even though the Center is housed at the Southern University Campus, it serves all 19 of the 1890 institutions and works seamlessly with the Centers' advisory board and the 1890 Universities Foundation to ensure that NHWQL Center advances the health and well-being of underserved and minority populations.

The **primary goal of this Center of Excellence** is to increase the capacities of 1890 institutions to address health disparities through nutrition research, teaching and Extension.

The Center of Excellence for NHWQL has three objectives:

- **Research:** To conduct innovative research in food and nutrition, health and well-being and enhance the research infrastructures and capacities of 1890 institutions to address health disparities through nutrition research.
- **Teaching:** To expose students to the best educational and leadership opportunities in nutrition, health, wellness and quality of life, which can prepare them as the ambassadors of the underserved communities to combat health disparities.
- **Extension:** To provide innovative nutrition education and training that leads to healthy, positive changes, increases in knowledge, skills, attitude and changes of behaviors necessary for choosing nutritionally sound diets and a healthy lifestyle.

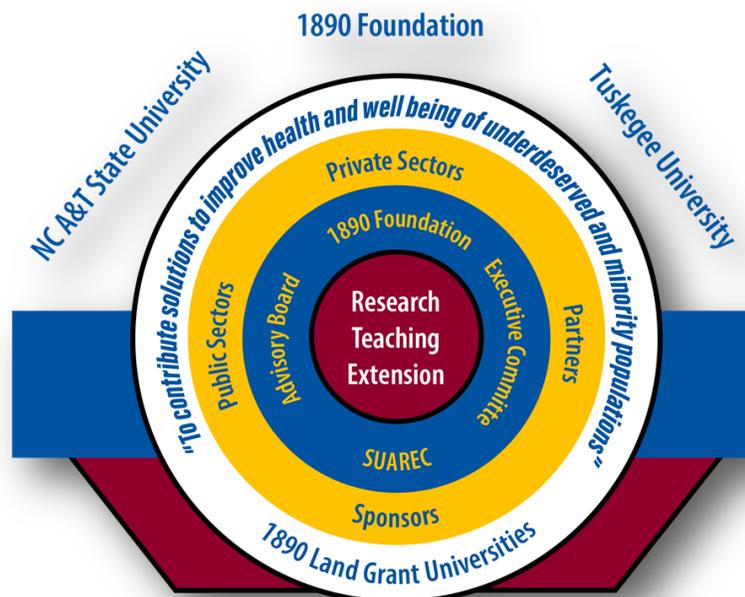
Each partner has a leading role in accomplishing the Center's objectives. Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Tuskegee University will lead the Extension components. "The Sisters Together: Move More, Eat Better" curriculum and raised bed gardening will be the two Extension programs used.

North Carolina A&T State University will lead the Center's research component by building metabolomics capacity and

establishing methods to conduct targeted and non-targeted metabolomics research. All three institutions will be involved in the teaching component and work closely with students through a scholar's programs and symposium series. Students will also be involved in research and Extension activities.

To date, the following has been accomplished:

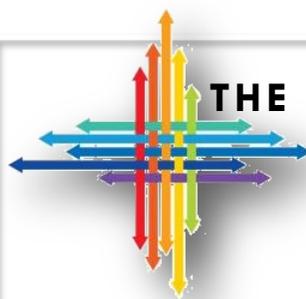
- Conducted monthly meetings with all the partners.
- Established the Center's seven-member advisory board.
- Recruited participants to provide samples for the analysis in the Microbiomes laboratory at NC A&T.
- Developed fact sheets.



Southern University and A&M College

- Held nutrition education intervention classes using the Sisters Together and Raised bed gardening programs.
- Developed and shared the [NHWQL Center](#) web page.
- Distributed the RFA in July of 2021 and the Foundation is

See Center on Page 6



THE 1890 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA: PATHWAYS TO BUILD BACK BETTER

April 2 – 5, 2022 | [Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA](#)

Registration: -Deadline for Early Registration – Nov. 12, 2021— \$550

Regular Registration – Nov. 13, 2021 – Feb. 25, 2022—\$575

Late Registration – Feb. 26 – March 25, 2022—\$625

On-Site Registration - \$650

REGISTRATION

Pay by purchase order, check or credit card. No funds (Note: Credit card users need to pay an additional fee to cover bank charges). [Register here.](#)

HOTEL REGISTRATION

[Hotel Guest Room Rates:](#)

Single and Double Occupancy: \$194

Triple Occupancy \$214 | Quadruple Occupancy: \$234

Tax and Surcharges: Hotel rates are confirmed in 2022 and are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 16.9% plus a \$5.00 per night State of Georgia Hotel Motel fee) in effect at the time of check in. Deadline to book, March 10, 2022.

ABSTRACTS & POSTERS

[Click for submission form.](#) Deadline – Nov. 15, 2021

DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS

Each 1890 campus is invited to display a university display at no-cost. Additional exhibits and non-1890 exhibits must pay the fee of \$2,000 by Feb. 11, 2022. All exhibitors, including the 1890s, must submit the Exhibit Registration Form by the deadline of Feb. 8. [To become an exhibitor, click here.](#) [To become a sponsor, click here.](#)

MORRISON-EVANS & MAYBERRY AWARDS

The application deadline for the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award is Jan. 21, 2022. External reviewers, i.e. NIFA National Program Leaders will evaluate the applications. Access the [applications here.](#)

In preparing the submissions, please use the following criteria: 8 1/2 x 11 inch page; Times Roman no smaller than 11 points, 1.5 line spacing, one-inch margins all around.

For additional information contact: [Dr. Alton Thompson](#), ARD Executive Director, (336) 285-2955 or [Dr. Orlando McMeans](#) (225) 771-4310.

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spective partnership opportunities that have yet to be explored, including but limited to climate change, food insecurity and disparities caused by COVID-19.

She also discussed the rollout of the new NIFA Reporting System (NRS), designed to streamline the administrative burdens and document impacts better. Again, Dr. Castille welcomed our input and encouraged us to submit our recommendations to Lynn Khadiagala at Lynn.Khadiagala@usda.gov. Finally, Dr. Castille expressed her commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as manifested, in part, by the hiring of a number of professionals from the 1890 community in key leadership positions.

ARD members are actively involved in the current discussions of the 2023 Farm Bill. Dr. Vernon Jones, ARD's representative on the Committee of Legislative and Policy (CLP), led a discussion of the 1890 community Farm Bill recommendations to the CLP. These recommendations were jointly submitted by AEA and the Council of 1890 Deans of Agriculture. Among our recommendations included reauthorizations of our capacity programs, the facilities program, the capacity building programs, the scholarship program and the centers of excellence. The Farm Bill process is an iterative one, along with being open and transparent. Feel free to submit additional recommendations and any other suggestions to Vernon.

ARD fully supports the ARIA initiative, a bold initiative

by the Experiment Station Section (ESS), endorsed by APLU, to request that Congress support an agricultural research infrastructure investment of at least \$11.5 billion at U.S. colleges of agriculture. Last month, the House Agriculture Committee provided \$3.65 billion supporting the [Research Facilities Act](#) (Act). The reconciliation bill text sent to the budget committee included \$2.6645 billion for RFA grants for construction, modernization, renovation and acquisition of agricultural research facilities and \$985.5 million for RFA grants for 1890, 1994, Alaskan-Native serving, Hispanic-serving and Insular area institutions and the University of the District of Columbia. The bill text also waives requirements that institutions provide a match of federal funding. In addition to funds for the RFA, \$100 million would be made available for equipment grants.

However, the time is now to express appreciation to members of Congress for the notable recognition of land-grant university agricultural research infrastructure needs. We urge you to keep up the drumbeat of awareness about the issue, expressing gratitude if it is appropriate to do so. While the documented need for support remains at \$11.5-\$38 billion, the amount in reconciliation is a significant step towards our goal, meeting the equity and waiver caveats that ESS asked for.

For the latest update on ARIA, please refer to the article submitted by Moses T. Kairo, ESCOP and ARIA chair.

ARS delays faculty sabbatical program; seeks partners

The [1890 Faculty Research Sabbatical Program](#) is an opportunity for 1890 land-grant university faculty to participate in a residency at an ARS laboratory to conduct cooperative research of mutual interest with ARS. ARS prioritizes the health and safety of its employees and partners. Therefore, ARS has delayed the next 1890 FRSP call for proposals until early 2022 to maximize the effectiveness of this sabbatical program. In the meantime, individuals can prepare for the next call for proposals by exploring potential partnerships on the [1890 Partnerships Hub](#) and visiting the [ARS Research Homepage](#).

Are you an 1890 land-grant university faculty member seeking an ARS research partner? Visit our [1890 Partnerships Hub](#) to view a list of ARS scientists actively seeking 1890 research partners. If you are an ARS scientist who would like to become a part of our 1890 Partnerships Hub, please send your name, contact information, and a brief description of your research (3-5 sentences) to 1890FRSP@usda.gov. The hub will be updated on a rolling basis.



Questions?

Visit our [frequently asked questions](#) page or [email us](#).

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1890 Land Grant Universities

[Alabama A&M University](#)
[Alcorn State University](#)
[Central State University](#)
[Delaware State University](#)
[Florida A&M University](#)
[Fort Valley State University](#)
[Kentucky State University](#)
[Langston University](#)
[Lincoln University](#)
[North Carolina A&T State University](#)
[Prairie View A&M University](#)
[South Carolina State University](#)
[Southern University and A&M College](#)
[Tennessee State University](#)
[Tuskegee University](#)
[University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff](#)
[University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#)
[Virginia State University](#)
[West Virginia State University](#)

ARD Updates is published monthly by the Association of Research Directors. To suggest articles, contact Dr. Alton Thompson at athompson1@ncat.edu



Continuing resolution averts government shutdown

On Sept. 30, Congress approved the continuing resolution H.R. 5305, Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. The Continuing Resolution will extend government funding through Dec. 3 and avoid a mid-night government shutdown.

The House originally introduced and passed H.R. 5305 the week of Sept. 20, which included provisions extending funding at FY 2021 levels, providing an additional \$28 billion in disaster relief and \$6.3 billion in support for Afghanistan evacuees, temporarily extending the public debt limit through Dec. 16, 2022. After pushback from Senate Republicans on extending the debt limit, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy stripped the debt limit provision from the bill. The Senate voted 65-35 to approve the measure as amended, with the House voting 254-175 to pass the bill shortly after.

The bill was sent to President Biden's desk and was signed before the midnight deadline.

Equity . . . from page 1

both the Equity Commission and the Subcommittee on Agriculture. Both seek to reflect diversity in demographics, regions of the country, background and experience and expertise.

For application requirements, visit the [Federal Register Notice](#) and send required documents to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6006-S, Washington, DC 20250; or electronically by email to: EquityCommission@usda.gov. Nominations will be considered that are submitted via email or postmarked by October 27, 2021. A federal official of USDA will acknowledge receipt of nominations.

We thank you for your support in sharing this opportunity within your organization and your networks.

Read the [full press release](#).

Center . . . from page 3

facilitating the review process for the submitted proposals. Five to six projects will be funded.

- Scheduled a symposium series with the first session held on Oct. 6, 2021.
- Recruited student scholars (three at Southern, three at Tuskegee and three at NC A&T).
- Hired three undergraduate students to work on every aspect of the project at Southern University.
- Trained Center faculty and staff to use the Nutrition App (LLENA) and have received information on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

For additional information, please contact:

Dr. Fatemeh Malekian, professor, Food Science, CFS, director, Southern University Institute for Food, Nutrition and Wellness, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center,

JOB OPPORTUNITY



Research Scientist (Meat Science/Laboratory Services) at Prairie View A&M University
lick here: <https://careers.meatscience.org/jobs/15478419>

CALENDAR



[First Americans Land-Grant Consortium \(FALCON\) 2021 Conference](#), Oct. 21 – 22 | Virtual
ARD Meeting at APLU, Nov. 8 | Virtual
ESCOPE Business meeting at APLU, Nov. 9 | Virtual
BAA Meeting at APLU, Nov. 10 | Virtual
[APLU Annual Meeting, Nov. 15-17](#) | Virtual