

**Report to the Southern Region Administrative Heads
Association of Extension Administrators
Dr. Carolyn Williams, Chairperson
Prairie View A&M University
August 5, 2017**

Officers of the Association of Extension Administrators

Dr. Carolyn Williams, Chairperson, Associate Administrator, Prairie View A&M University
Vonda Richardson, Chair-Elect, Associate Administrator, Florida A&M University
Dr. Albert Essel, Treasurer, Dean/Administrator, Lincoln University
Dr. Mark Latimore, Immediate Past Chair, Fort Valley State University

1890 Excellence in Extension Award

Each year, AEA provides an opportunity for the 1890 Extension professionals to submit applications for consideration for the 1890 Excellence in Extension Award in each of the four major program areas. AEA uses the same criteria as ECOP in selecting its national award winner. The 1890 winners will be recognized at the Extension Southern Region PLN meeting in Fort Worth, Texas on August 22, 2017. AEA provides a plaque and a momentary award to the 1890 Excellence in Extension award winner in each program area.

The recipient with the overall highest score is selected as the 1890 regional award winner and his/her application is submitted to be considered for the ECOP National Excellence in Extension Award that is presented at the Annual APLU Meeting.

NIFA's Nutrition Education (EFNEP) Call to Conversation

1890 Extension Administrators, program leaders, educators, and paraprofessionals participated in the EFNEP Conversation that was sponsored by NIFA and hosted by Lincoln University and the University of Missouri in St. Louis, Missouri on June 14-17, 2017. The purpose of the conversation was to determine what EFNEP should look like in the future, identify barriers and challenges impacting the program and the delivery of the program, strengthen relationships and partnerships to improve the success of the program, and to develop a programs strategy for the future. The conversation yielded a lot of recommendations and a report will be issued by NIFA to share with Extension and others for further input.

Committee on Legislation and Policy

AEA and ARD have been involved in various activities of the BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) to identify priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill. The 1890 priorities for the next farm bill are to reauthorize 1890 Extension and Evans-Allen Research, the 1890 Facilities Program, and the 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program. In addition, 1890 Extension has presented a recommendation to change the percent of carry-over for its Extension funding from 20% for

one year to 100% for one or more years. The administrators would like the carry-over provision for 1890 capacity funds to be consistent with the carry-over provision for Smith-Lever Funds. This request has also been shared with NIFA.

Expanding 1890s' Participation in Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

The Association of Extension Administrators has been working to enhance the participation of 1890 land-grant universities in disaster programming. The Chair of AEA, Dr. Carolyn Williams, provided leadership for the development of a proposal that was funded through Purdue University to bring 1890 Extension personnel together in a workshop on May 30-June 1, 2017, in Houston, Texas, to discuss how they could become more involved in EDEN. The group identified barriers and challenges impacting disaster programming, identified strategies to address those barriers, and developed a plan to leverage federal and national EDEN resources to support disaster programming at the 1890 land-grant universities. Each institution has identified an extension professional to serve as an EDEN contact.

Cooperative Extension Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Partnership

Representatives from the 1890 land-grant universities have been involved with ECOP to develop a partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This is a 10-year partnership to build a culture of health in communities across America in 2017 and beyond. The proposal was funded for \$4.6 million for the first two years of the 10-year period. The implementation of the partnership will begin in September 2017.

The Future of Food: Strengthening Partnerships for Impact – The Duckweed Research Project:

As a follow-up to the January 2017 conference on “The Future of Food: Strengthening Partnerships for Impact” sponsored by The Andrew J. Young Foundation, the World Bank, USDA/Foreign Agriculture Service and The Neighborhood Associates Corporation, AEA and ARD are developing a working draft of a research and extension proposal focusing on duckweed and food insecurity. Research and applications of duckweeds are being promoted by two international organizations, The International Lemna Association and the International Steering Committee on Duckweed Research and Applications.

Duckweed is also being studied by researchers around the world as a possible source of clean energy that is both renewable and cost effective. Duckweed is a good candidate as a biofuel because it grows rapidly, produces five to six times as much starch as corn per unit of area, and does not contribute to global warming. Unlike fossil fuels, duckweed removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere instead of adding it.

Given the potential benefits of duckweed together with the ease of production, it can be profitable alternative crop for small and limited resource farmers in the 1890 region

AEA 2017 Summer Meeting

AEA held its 2017 summer meeting on June 19-22, 2017 in Charleston West Virginia. The meeting was hosted by West Virginia State University (WVSU) and included a tour of the University and a reception at the President's Residence. The staff of the WVSU Cooperative Extension program provided an overview of their program and discussed the many partnerships that they were engaged in with other agencies and organizations. The AEA meeting focused primarily on issues that were important to the future of 1890 Extension and administrators heard from Dr. Robert Holland who provided a national perspective and an update from NIFA. Other presenters included representatives from eXtension, Southern Rural Development Center, Southern SARE, and the 1890 Universities Foundation. The administrators also received updates regarding the 2018 farm bill, the 2018 budget process, and state matching

AEA/ARD 2018 Joint Winter Meeting

Instead of holding separate winter meetings in 2018, AEA and ARD will meet jointly on January 28 - February 1, 2018 in Washington, DC. At this meeting, representatives from NIFA and others agencies and organizations will be invited to share information and to discuss opportunities for new partnerships or collaborations with the 1890 land-grant universities. During this meeting, AEA and ARD will also have an opportunity to have separate business sessions to discuss matters that would relate to their respective organization.

Personnel Change

L. Washington Lyons retired from his position as executive administrator of the Association of Extension Administrators, effective, July 1, 2017. However, he is working with AEA on a limited basis until another executive administrator is employed.