

## **Agenda Brief: 2022 Southern Mini Land-grant Conference**

**Presenter:** Eric Young

### **Background:**

March 2019 in Florida, the first Southern mini Land-grant conference was held since 2002. This conference included the administrative heads, directors of academic programs, research, and Extension, and CARET Delegates from the 1862 and 1890 Land-grant institutions in the geographic South. It involved separate business meetings for the various associations and a full day of joint issue-based sessions, as well as an optional tour. Over the past few months, the Executive Directors of these associations have asked their members if they are in favor of having another similar conference in spring 2022 and, if so, what timing constraints should be considered. Below is the feedback from those discussions.

- Every group was in favor of having another Southern mini Land-grant conference.
- The general format of the last one was ok, but the planning committee may consider some minor modifications in the overall schedule, particularly related to the tour.
- Location should be more easily accessible to an airport and have more dining options close by than the Florida location did.
- The state host should be based on the ASRED & SAAESD joint spring meeting rotation, as it was last time, which in 2022 will be in Texas. The Experiment Station and Extension Directors at TAMU AgriLife have agreed to host the meeting as a mini Land-grant, if the decision is to move forward with this conference.
- Timing of the conference should be moved to later in the spring so that it is further from the early March CARET/AHS meeting in DC. Other considerations for timing are:
  - Avoid April 29 through May 15 due to graduation activities at both 1862 and 1890 institutions.
  - Set dates as far ahead of mid-August as possible due to the ASRED & AEA meetings at that time.
- Based on above considerations, May 16 to June 3 appears to be the best time frame for this conference, with earlier dates being better. An alternative time frame to consider could be April 18 to 29, but that may cause end-of-semester conflicts for some academic programs directors and is only 6-7 weeks from the March CARET/AHS meeting.