

Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) Webinar

Now Available: Webinar Resources and Toolkit

Dear Experiment Station Section (ESS) Members and Colleagues,

Last Monday, January 11th, the Experiment Station Section (ESS) hosted a webinar on the Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy (ARIA) plan for 2021. This year, a major priority for ESS is to secure funding for agricultural research infrastructure at colleges and schools of agriculture in an economic stimulus/recovery legislation.

The ARIA campaign was developed by ESS to support the Section's infrastructure proposal. The ESS proposal was approved by the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly's Policy Board of Directors in April 2020. In September 2020, ESS provided members with a draft Gordian report. Gordian will release the final report in February 2021.

The purpose of last Monday's webinar was to formally launch our advocacy and to provide ESS members with background, talking points, and tools to engage local influencers and members of Congress on the need for investment in extramural agricultural research infrastructure. Some key points from the webinar are captured in the [PowerPoint presentation](#). For those of you who want to view the webinar, please click on this link to [view the recording](#).

- **The request.** *"The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board on Agriculture Assembly/Experiment Station Section calls upon Congress and the administration to provide \$11.5 billion to update the invaluable network of extramural research facilities via a grant program administered through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture."*
- **The importance of influencers and champions.** We aim to garner support for this request well beyond ESS members. We aim to build a wide coalition of influencers, organizations, and champions in Congress and the new administration to secure billions in funding.
- **An ESS member checklist** which included the following:
 - Work with your government relations officials and CARET members to promote the infrastructure request.
 - Identify influencers for your state and institution.
 - Identify 'concept' to 'shovel ready' projects and develop talking points.
- **An ESS-APLU FANR checklist for national action.** The ESS leadership is working closely with APLU Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), APLU Council on Governmental Affairs (APLU CGA), and Cornerstone to engage stakeholders at the national level. This group will also provide guidance for the report rollout in February.

As a supplement to the Advocacy Webinar last Monday, the ESS has assembled an **ARIA Advocacy Toolbox**, located [here](#). It includes a [leave behind](#), [slide deck](#), [talking points](#), and a [timeline](#). A Communications Toolbox will be provided a week before the Gordian final report is released. Your participation in this campaign is critically important. The regional directors and administrator will play a key role in providing you with routine updates.

Please report any intel that you receive on this request to your regional directors and administrators as well as to Caron Gala (cgala@aplu.org), Director of Governmental Affairs for Agriculture at APLU. Upon receipt, we will respond promptly and/or include it in the FAQs.

Thank you for your efforts,

Moses Kairo, APLU ESCOP Chair
School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

Tel.: 410.651.6072 ▪ Fax: 410.621.3550 ▪ Email: MKairo@UMES.EDU