

Southern Region Program Leadership Network Conference

Community Development State Report  
LSU AgCenter

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August 2003

- LSU AgCenter continues to undergo the process of restructuring (the merger of research and outreach, as well as the consolidation of some departments). Restructuring is a response to the need for serving the Louisiana public more efficiently. In this process, rural development emerges as a priority area.
- Most (6/7) of the Community Economic Development (CED) Area Agents have now completed a Specialization in Community Economic Development. The Specialization consists of 15 hours post Master's Degree graduate credits in approved Community and Economic Development coursework.
- The CED Team is working on a pilot project in NE Louisiana focusing on natural resources based economic development alternatives for producers on marginal agricultural lands.
- The LSU AgCenter is in the process of opening a rural development center in NE Louisiana Delta area. We are currently searching for a center director. The center will focus on several key areas of community development, including rural entrepreneurship.
- We are beginning a state data project to support our Take Charge program for civic engagement and leadership.
- We are in the process of working with the Mississippi and Arkansas on a tri-state project focusing on rural entrepreneurship.