

*SOUTHERN REGION FCS PROGRAM LEADERS NETWORK (PLN)
CONFERENCE CALL*

January 22, 2009
8:30 am, CST

Attendees: **Carolyn Nobles** (Prairie View A&M University), **Ellen Murphy** (LSU Ag Center), **Helene-Joy Jamison** for Monica A. Fields (South Carolina State University), **Jorge Atilas** (University of Georgia), **Evelyn Crayton** (Auburn University), **Kasundra Cyrus** (Southern University), **Carolyn Dunn** (North Carolina State University), **Gina Eubanks** (Southern University), **Millie Ferrer** (University of Florida), **Shirley Hastings** (University of Tennessee), **Glenn Muske** (Oklahoma State University), **Thelma Sanders-Hunter** (Tennessee State University), **Krystal Smith** (West Virginia State University), **Anne Sortor** (University of Arkansas), **Marshall Stewart** (North Carolina State University), **Nayda Torres** (University of Florida)

Welcome: A welcome was extended to the group by Carolyn Nobles, Chairperson of the Southern Region Family and Consumer Sciences Program Leaders Network.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted to include the correction of Krystal's name. It is spelled with a "K" instead of a "C".

Advisor's Report: Millie Ferrer reported that AFRI for 2009 included two stand alone proposals, ten integrated, and twenty-two research only proposals. This year will be competitive. Encourage staff to participate in grantsmanship workshops. The National Extension Director's/Administrator's Meeting will be held in New Orleans on February 16 - 20, 2009. Millie is in a new position that she will hold for a year. She doubts that she can attend the meeting in New Orleans due to budget cuts. Jorge will also not be able to attend, but stated that Extension needs to be represented. Gina Eubanks volunteered to attend and represent Extension.

Gina Eubanks reported that the AEA winter meeting will be held the first week in February in Florida. There is an opening for a Chief Scientist position. Proposals have been submitted to CYFAR. CARET will hold its' conference on March 1, 2009. Ag Day on the Hill is March 4, 2009. CARET is the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching. We need to talk to representatives regarding our programs. Tell representatives and directors that we need to have a place at the table.

Agenda for February Spring Meeting: Some scheduling changes were made to the agenda. Time needs to be allotted for Q & A sessions which should last about fifteen minutes. Ellen will schedule Caroline for the morning of the 24th. Evelyn will contact Joe Wasabi and Jan Singleton to schedule them for the morning of the 26th. Waterfront facility has been secured. The 1994 institutions have a representative that will be attending. We need to hear from her.

Program leaders should be grouped according to disciplines. The \$300 entry fee will be waived for first-time attendees. Participants will need to complete the appropriate forms to take advantage of this. Carolyn Dunn will not be in Washington to do the CoP update. Shirley Hastings will not attend.

Ellen Murphy asked if we are submitting a proposal to AFRI because there is a good chance that we will be funded.

Community of Practice (CoP) - Families, Food & Fitness and Food Safety: The team met in Washington for three days. The CoP is well on its way to being certified. Adobe Connect is scheduled for February 4th. The content has to be submitted in the right format. There is a target date for certification by September.

PLN Update: We should determine if program leaders should be added to the address structure of PLN. We will learn more about this at a later time.

EFNEP 40th Anniversary Celebration: There were over 70 recipes submitted. The judging process is happening now. Federal partners were invited. Carolyn will e-mail the list of names. Evelyn served on the awards committee. The Southern Region did well in the awards category. Every state in the south has an award winner. She will provide us with the winning names. There were over 120 applicants. If they did not win in a state category then they won in a regional category. It was suggested that state winners be invited to the celebration. A decision has not yet been made.

State Updates

Arkansas: The Childhood Obesity and Diabetes Conference will be on April 2 - 4, 2009. The state is under proration. An Associate Director position is open. Anne Sortor hired a nutrition faculty member in food safety. Two program technician positions are open.

West Virginia: Krystal Smith expanded the youth EFNEP program. Bonnie Parsons was hired as a specialist for health disparities.

North Carolina: Marshall Stewart will attend the meeting in Washington. The Cooperative Extension program is experiencing a seven percent budget cut and downsizing. The new food safety specialist is Dr. Benjamin Chapman. Two programs, 4-H and Family Life, will be merged. These plans will be finalized in September 2009. Save the Children received \$500,000 for after school tutorials.

Texas: Travel was decreased from 58% to 55%.

Tennessee: The university was mandated to become a unified school. There is a process for revising the admissions procedures and the school website.

LSU Ag Center: The center is experiencing 25% percent budget cuts. An additional 15% in cuts has been planned. The overall budget will be \$1,000,000 less than last year. There is a freeze on hiring and travel has been restricted.

Please inform Carolyn Nobles by January 30, 2009 if the speakers on the agenda have been contacted.

Carolyn recommended that reports be sent to her and she would forward them to Monica Fields.

Submitted By: Monica A. Fields
Senior Extension Director, Family Life Programs
South Carolina State University
Helene-Joy Jamison, Recorder