



# *Unmasking Our Potential: Building Resilient Communities*

## **Actions & Accomplishments**

2019 SR-PLN, AEA, ASRED Joint Meeting

New Orleans, LA – August 22, 2019



# Action Items



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# Action Items

- **Background:** 2018 Farm Bill removed many of the restrictions in growing, processing and selling industrial hemp products. Since that time there has been a lot of interest and in some cases confusion for potential growers due to lack of local production information. Land Grant universities across the region have varying levels of capacity to address this emerging topic.
- **Committee Involved:** Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)
- **Action Requested:** Create a Southern Region Industrial Hemp SERA workgroup to encourage specialists and agents to collaborate and share resources.
- **Timeline:** August 2020



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# Action Items

## Communications Committee

- **Background:** The number of federal website accessibility lawsuits have increased from 814 in 2017 to 2250 in 2018. Many ADA lawsuits target universities. Training is needed to bring digital communication efforts into compliance. A survey conducted by the COM committee shows a need in the southern region and nationally for training resources to increase organizational capacity for meeting compliance. This is mission-critical compliance training that satisfies a federal mandate.
- **Committee Involved:** Communications, Information Technology
- **Action Requested:** Approval for a regional training with one SRPLN institutional communications and/or IT representatives to attend ADA and 508 compliance face-to-face workshop on LSU campus to gain train-the-trainer skills that can be utilized to deliver these compliance trainings to Extension professionals at home institutions. (Travel funds and registration fee would be per institution.)
- **Timeline:** Workshop to be held within the next 6-12 months



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# Action Items

## Family & Consumer Sciences Committee

- **Background:** Several vacancies in NIFA could adversely affect the support to Extension, both in terms of technical assistance, and in terms of grant funding availability. NIFA handles a large portfolio of interagency agreements which need to be maintained, enhanced and cultivated.
- **Committee Involved:** All program areas
- **Action Requested: 2 letters**
- Support interest in timely hiring - We request that a joint letter from ASRED and AEA to director Scott Angle requesting prompt and quick replacement of vacancies in this division. In addition, we request consideration for adding additional, possibly temporary, National Program Leader (NPL) positions in hospitality and tourism, and rural health disparities (mental health, financial management, opioid abuse, etc.).
- Interagency agreements - In addition we request that this letter also addresses the need to renew and continue the funding ties with the Department of Defense for the military learning families network which ends in 2020. Similar consideration should be given to other interagency agreements that support funding for Extension related programming.



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**Timeline:** Next 60 days.



# Accomplishments



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# Accomplishments

Ag & Natural Resources  
Committee

- Held a joint meeting with North Central ANR leaders in June 2019.
- Created a survey to assess our capacity and needs to deliver water-related programs across the southern region.
- Collaborated with CRD to develop a Family Heirs' Property owner survey.



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# Accomplishments

Communications  
Committee

- Gathered feedback on implementation of Communicator of the Year Award.
- Developed a response template and shared a model for crisis communication.
- Conducted survey of Southern Region on compliance with Section 508 accessibility in partnership with the IT Committee.
- Completed curriculum outlines for five subject areas of communication trainings and shared with PSD committee for review and received feedback at meeting.



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# Accomplishments

Community Development  
Committee

- Completed 11 webinars as part of the Southern CRD series. Approximately 1,000 people participated in webinars over last 4 years.
- Provided program and personnel highlight content to monthly Around the South newsletter.
- Completed CRD indicators for 2018-2019 with 15 universities reporting.
- Scheduled CRD 101 and facilitation training for November 11-15, 2019 in Texas (tentatively), targeting county agents and state staff across program areas.



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# Accomplishments

Family & Consumer Sciences  
Committee

- Lead the nation in Diabetes National Prevention Program through the Health Specialists with program leaders and directors' support.
- Deliberately sought multi-state opportunities. Successful examples include:
  - Grant for Cancer Cooking Schools between Prairie View A&M and University of Georgia.
  - Florida and Georgia collaborated on a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.
- Developed a Southern region FCS message for the NIFA listening sessions.
- Provided a case statement to ECOP for seeking private funding to assist FCS Extension.
- Completed FCS Messaging Initiative Survey.
- Developed a structure for consistently contributing to Share our Science with NIFA
- Hosted national meeting with Clinical Translational Science Award Programs to explain collaboration with Extension to address rural health disparities.



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- **Common Measures Module 1 eXtension Training:** 100% of the Southern Region states completed module one of this training
- **Civil Discourse Coming Together for Understanding** – 11 southern region states completed national training and most have conducted at least one session in their state [AL, MS, NC, AR, GA, TX, KY, SC, VA, FL, TN]
- Ten of 13 states participated in the **Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference** with 429 participants
- **Volunteer Conference of Southern states** was promoted to a national audience and involved 17 states from all four regions.



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# Accomplishments

Information Technology  
Committee

- Utilized the Microsoft Teams platform to facilitate sharing information about IT resources, grant information, professional development opportunities, and cyber security.
- Reached out to various PLN committees inquiring about ways in which we could assist them. As a result, we provided feedback which evolved into an information session being presented during PLN 2019.



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# Accomplishments

Middle Managers  
Committee

- Implemented information from Middle Managers biennial conference – **What's in Your Leadership Toolbox**, Sarasota, Florida April 2019.
- Completed Best Management Practices document for hiring and interviewing. Will be posted on Middle Manager's PLN website.
- Compiled and shared Peer to Peer Information on Extension staffing & funding statistics.
- Produced 3 newsletters
- Explored lessons learned from UGA employee engagement survey to apply to other states within the region. (Engagement=going the extra mile to support the university)



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# Accomplishments

Program & Staff  
Development Committee

- Generated Snapshot data illustrating how the majority of southern region institutions handle succession planning.
- Conducted 2019 Virtual Summer School: From Onboarding to Succession Planning. Included 5 sessions; total live attendance: 209 participants.
- Aggregated list of diversity and inclusion resources available to institutions.



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