

## **October CRD Conference Call/Zoom Meeting**

**February 10, 2021**

1 PM Eastern/12 PM Central

Zoom link: <https://uky.zoom.us/j/8791913558>

Phone number: (646) 876-9923, 8791913558#

**In attendance:** Stacey McCullough, Alison Davis, Michael Wilcox, Russ Garner, Steve Turner, Ed Jones, Dan Kahl, Michelle Eley, Gill Finley, Joy Moten-Thomas, Mark Waller, Ken Robinson, Susan Jakes, Matt Fannin, Brent Elrod, Matt Ulmer, Crystal Tyler-Mackey, Rachel Welborn, Kimberly Holmes, Iris Crosby, Mike Gutter, Walter Battle, Haley Burns and Chris Cribbs.

### **I. Opening Business**

**Alison Davis**

- a. Stacey McCullough made a motion to accept the minutes; Joy Moten-Thomas seconded the motion; December minutes approved unanimously.

### **II. Administrative Advisor Updates**

**Ed and Tasha**

- a. Nominee for Deputy Secretary of Agriculture is Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, current Commissioner of Agriculture at Virginia and former Dean at Virginia State University. She understands Cooperative Extension and is very approachable.
- b. Multi-state effort titled – Creative learning through data-driven discovery led by Virginia Tech University, Iowa State University, Oregon State University and University of Virginia. This project will use publicly available data to determine programmatic needs for communities – short presentation in the future; Efforts underway to scale it up to a national initiative and some Farm Bill funding is being pursued.
- c. ASRED is now meeting on a monthly basis; please let Ed or Tasha know if you have any inputs.

### **III. NIFA Update**

**Brent Elrod**

- a. Pursuing opportunities to help educate incoming administration of NIFA's four priorities – RRDC's are preparing a document that highlights CRD's efforts across Land Grant Universities.
- b. Briefed Bill Hoffman – National Science Liaison at the Institute of Youth, Family and Community that serves the human and social components of NIFA; He's also a Rural Development Center based representative.
- c. COVID-related: Interagency agreement with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and eXtension Foundation to support vaccine confidence and hesitancy; expected funding above \$9 million. Every Land Grant University will receive funding based on formula – impact collaborative to bring Extension specialists and faculty educators to educate hard-to-reach populations; competitive submissions for sub-awards.

- d. E-connectivity and Broadband Virtual Conference hosted by Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) with funding from NIFA; Sheila Martin included a link to google document to update additional information in terms of a research agenda for the system to address E-connectivity and broadband concerns as well as opportunities.
- e. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – Brent Elrod, Rachel Welborn, Leonardo were invited to present at the Spring meeting at the 2021 Joint Board on Human Sciences and Council of Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences Spring meeting.
- f. NIFA no-cost extensions will be allowed. NIFA will try be flexible and will be willing to work with Project investigators
- g. NIFA Received guidance from Congress to fund 100% opioids related 2021 Rural Health and Safety Education grant in this cycle. Last year the grants were under-applied.
- h. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Rural Opioid Technical Assistance (ROTA) grants upcoming – good opportunity for CRD Specialists to work with Family and Consumer Sciences Agents and Specialists.
- i. \$28 million in stimulus funding for Farm and Ranch assistance – funding is directed to State Departments of Agriculture – Funding requests up to \$500,000; sub-awards will be provided – Farm and Rural Stress Assistance Network; Southern Region Specialists can contact Heather Sedges at University of Tennessee.

#### **IV. NACDEP Update**

**Susan Jakes**

- a. NACDEP virtual annual conference – May 15 – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Proposals are closed at this point.
- b. National Program Leadership Network meeting - to be determined (Friday before – May 14<sup>th</sup>/after the Conference – May 21<sup>st</sup>)
- c. Membership grace period (90 days) is extended to facilitate registration to the Conference. Encourage people to attend.
- d. Conference registration and membership can be rolled in together.
- e. Award nominations are due on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- f. Mississippi is starting a NACDEP chapter, in the process of putting materials together and recruiting members.

#### **V. PLC Committee Update**

**Gill or Dan**

- a. Next PLC meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping, Equality project on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. SRDC Update**

**Steve Turner**

- a. SRDC Director Search – interviewed 2 candidates, an offer was made to one candidate but was not accepted. Search ongoing; Head of Search Committee – Keith Coble has accepted a new position as Vice-President, Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.
- b. AFRI grant received on Heirs' Property project – partners at Tuskegee, U.S. Forests Service, Mississippi State University and Center for Heirs Property Preservation; 3-year project titled: Racial Wealth Gap, Persistent Poverty and Heirs' Property
- c. Coming Together for Racial Understanding Virtual series wrapping up, evaluations upcoming
- d. Opportunity to teach Heirs' Property as an Undergraduate Agricultural and Environmental Law course in Agricultural Economics so that Learning outcomes from the Heirs' property project can be used inform and educate undergraduate students. Steve Turner will follow-up on the prospects.

## **VII. NC PLC Committee Update**

**Michael Wilcox**

- a. Community Development Library at Purdue to be launched soon; upcoming webinar; please contribute content and curriculum to the library.
- b. RRDC have partnered with APLU for new Workforce Development – Strengthening Career Pathways for Low-Income Rural Students – Michael Wilcox leading the project with Tanya Hall (Regional Educator, Purdue); 6-8 people working team; Joy Moten-Thomas (Fort Valley State University) and Kenny Sherin (North Carolina State University) expressed interested in joining the team. May recruit more participants in the future. Project funded by Ascendium Education Group.
- c. NCRCD hosting first webinar on March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2:00- 3:30 pm (Eastern time) focused on 1994 institutions highlighting research from Colorado State University to strengthen ties between 1862 institutions and 1994 Universities in the Western United States.
- d. Community Development Programs – Purdue Signature programs identifying a model/tool/process through a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens – membership, needs assessment, curriculum content, program design, outreach, marketing, equity of program participation and impact. Iowa State University has a process in place and offered to conduct a workshop. Are there any other tools that can be used to assess across CRD and other program areas? Can NCRCD and SRDC partner to organize workshops to Extension Agents and Specialists? Please let Michael Wilcox know.
- e. A vote was taken to gauge interest on whether a short meeting of National Program Leaders Network should be organized on Friday before/after NACDEP – majority voted for a short version; Dan Kahl and Iris Crosby will serve as Southern Region representatives to help organize the meeting. Meeting date to be determined.

## VIII. CRD Plan of Work

- a. Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation (CTRU dialogue process). Stacey and Walter
- b. CRD Indicators through a Diversity, Equity and Inclusive framework with both short-term and long-term goals.
- c. Please send additional ideas to Stacey McCullough or Alison Davis. They will follow-up.

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### February 10, 2021 Southern Region CRD State Program Leaders' Session Priorities/Discussion Points

#### Identify 1 short-term and 1 long-term idea

##### Top Ideas:

- Design appraisal evaluation based upon type of county and program area. Rural instrument compared to an urban instrument. Insist that leadership reports on outcomes that target the minority, black, POC populations we do/could work with.
  - Identify a couple of indicators to begin collecting annually
- Spearhead some project initiatives that will target underserved, racially diverse clientele with 1890/1862 Land-Grant involvement – true partnership critical
  - Tangible, short-term
- Help leadership establish and/or advocate anti-racism policies/resources and continued racial equity training
- Across committees create a set of tools to elevate a conversation with Extension leadership to advance DEI, racial justice – start dialogue to gauge interest from other committees headed into August meeting
  - Articles sharing research on why this is important
- Establish teams for external review of programs through racial equity lens
  - Develop tool to allow program leaders to evaluate programs through a racial equity lens
- Need more diverse faculty
- Encourage this training at county agent level – (and/or require/incentivize to broader participation)

##### Other Ideas:

- Create mini-grant program to promote inclusive communities
- Implement and enforce no tolerance policy in community work at CRD level
- Bring Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) and FFA together - coordinate across 2 organizations
- Insist Extension reports on outcomes (not participation) for disadvantaged and minority populations
- Gender concerns
- Accountability partners-mentioned in the larger group
- Compare outcome of Extension administration (AEA/ASRED) CTRU training with PLN group (*partially covered by SRDC's grant with Walmart*)

##### Commitments on a personal, professional, or state level:

- Working to increase more diverse faculty
- work with a team from across Extension to create a DEI portal
- Adopt diversity, equity, inclusion in our departmental bylaws

- Review programs through racial equity lens and request program enhancements as appropriate (should we engage an external review team?)
- Serve as a listening and vocal liaison between Extension and University leadership - sharing needs and resources bi-laterally
- State a policy about working in communities and not tolerating any behavior that looks or smells like racism or exclusivity
- Professionally: Think how I can bring into my circle people who may be inadvertently overlooked. Intentionality!
- Begin the conversation
- Be intentional
- Intentionally appoint and diversify supervision/teams
- Urge every colleague to participate in any CTRU offerings.
- Personally mentor someone different
- Personal: Continue to read and do more self-study this year. There are a few books that I would like to pertain to race, racism and racial equity issues that we currently face in our society
- I will continue to write editorials in my local paper addressing the need for our community to address social change.

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Meeting Adjourned

Next CRD meeting April 14th, 1pm EST  
Zoom Link: <https://uky.zoom.us/j/8791913558>  
Phone: (646) 876-9923, meeting ID 242792158#