

Report to ESCOP from the Association of 1890 Research Directors' (ARD)

Presenter: Dyremple Marsh, Chair of ARD

Since the last ESCOP meeting, the ARD held its 2011 Symposium, April 9 – 13, 2011 at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, GA. There were 785 in attendance and of those 301 were students. There were 254 oral presentations made, 126 of which were made by students, and there were 269 poster presentations given, 153 by students. Thus the total number of presentations given were 523 in the topic areas of Food Safety and Global Food Security; Renewable Resources, Bioenergy and Environmental Stewardship; Sustainable Plant and Animal Production Systems; Human Health, Nutrition and Obesity Prevention; and Family, Youth, Community and Economic Development. Evaluations from the participants indicated that 89% had their expectations of this conference met or indicated that it exceeded their expectations. Many wrote that the symposium was an excellent event and were looking forward to the next one. Presentations, either in plenary sessions or concurrent sessions, were provided by representatives from NIFA, ARS, APHIS, SARE, the Forest Service, EPA, FAS, and the US Higher Education for Development (HED). Some from the 1890 universities presented and there were exhibits and talks to students from the Univ. of GA, the Univ. of Illinois, and North Carolina State University. Students attended workshops on resume writing, applying for government jobs, internships and summer employment, and learned about the pros and cons of social networking. The theme of the symposium was "1890 Research: Sustainable Solutions for Current and Emerging Issues" and the goal of this endeavor was "To provide a forum for interactions, knowledge sharing, building networks for expanded partnerships and showcasing the talents and achievements of the 1890 Community." The oral and poster presentations of students were judged and first, second and third place winners in the five topic areas, either in the undergraduate or graduate categories, received a plaque and monetary awards at the Student Awards Luncheon. At the Awards Banquet, special awards were given to Dr. Makola Abdullah, Dr. Al Parks, and Dr. Alton Thompson who had provided distinguished service for years to the ARD but have recently moved on to new positions. Dr. Anugrah Shaw from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore received the ESCOP 1890 regional "Excellence in Multistate Research Award." The highest award given to 1890 scientists is the Morrison-Evans Outstanding Scientist Award which carries a cash stipend of \$1000. This year's recipient was Dr. Gunihal Ozbay, a Research Associate Professor at Delaware State University. Most of Dr. Ozbay's research projects relate to shellfish-algal dynamics as they relate to aquaculture systems, toxicity in harmful algae, and nutrient management. The next symposium will be held in April, 2013 and the current major initiative being planned by the ARD is to establish strong research collaboration among the 1890s in one of the national NIFA/USDA priority areas.

NIFA held a training workshop for those in the 1890 sponsored programs offices who are responsible for proposal submissions and post award activities of NIFA grants. NIFA representation will also be present at the upcoming ARD summer meeting which will be held July 27 – 28, 2011 and update them on new opportunities, changes in programs, and advise them on accountability reporting and issues, and to address their issues and concerns as USDA stakeholders.

Additionally, the ARD members are intricately engaged in the initiatives of the BAA through membership in ESCOP, and through representation on standing and ad hoc committees, and in particular on the Budget and Advocacy Committee and on the Committee on Legislation and Policy. The monthly ARD newsletter helps to keep not only the ARD informed, but the entire land grant community informed as the campuses distribute the newsletter widely.