



2009 Bonnie Teater
Community Development Educator

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Mr. Hank Cothran
University of Florida

The Southern Rural Development Center is proud to honor Mr. Hank Cothran as the 2009 recipient of the Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award. Cothran is an Extension Community Resource Development Specialist with the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

As a member of the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida, Cothran has dedicated his career to public policy education, community leadership development, and business retention and expansion. He has gained considerable respect as an Extension educator, working at local, regional, national and international levels in advancing community and economic development Extension programming. LSU AgCenter Extension agents Kay Lynn Tettleton and Cynthia F. Plicher explain that Cothran "personifies the values, enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment that is community development." From coast to coast, Cothran has reached diverse audiences through his enthusiasm and professionalism.

Throughout his years, Cothran has given unselfishly of his time and talents to a variety of professional organizations, serving in key leadership roles from treasurer to president. A former president of Business Retention & Expansion International, Cothran took the lead role in developing the Basic BREI Course when it was in need of an update and revision in 2003. As BREI Association Manager Connie Wagner notes, "[BREI] Course attendance/participation has greatly increased due to the quality of his work, his presentation style and vast knowledge." The quality of Cothran's BREI efforts are reflected in the fact that he has tapped to present this program in Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and various regions of the United States. Currently, Cothran is working directly with a group in South Africa to modify the course to align with their specific needs. As a result of his eight years of service to this area of work, Cothran was honored as a "Master Business Retention and Expansion Professional," the first person so honored with this important designation.

BREI is just one organization that has benefited from Cothran's commitment. He served as secretary, vice-chair, and chair for the Southern Region Program Leadership Network's Community Development Committee. He fulfilled the role of "coach" for the Rural Community College Initiative (RCCI), an initiative coordinated by the SRDC that helped advance the community/economic outreach efforts of rural community and tribal colleges in the South. Working with the SRDC, he advised the Center's development of priority goals and strategies as a member of its Technical and Operational Advisory Committee. As the treasurer for the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP), he crafted the financial policies and tackled the task of obtaining 501C3 status for the organization. Without question, Hank Cothran has played a central role in shaping the activities and successes of the various organizations of which he has been a part.

For his professional investment and commitment to Extension community development work in the Southern region and beyond, it is most fitting that Mr. Hank Cothran be honored by the Southern Rural Development Center as its 2009 recipient of the Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award.

About the Bonnie Teater Lifetime Achievement Award



Bonnie Teater is a special individual to friends of the Southern Rural Development Center. For 30 years, she provided valuable support and day-to-day assistance to the Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration to all because of the dedication she brought to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's land-grant schools. She currently is enjoying retirement in her home state of Kentucky.

Award Selection Process

This important award is sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center for the purpose of honoring the superior accomplishments of an Extension educator from the Southern region. Eligibility is limited to individuals who meet the following conditions:

- Currently employed by one of the 29 land-grant universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region, and whose principal work is in the area of community development. Individuals who have retired from one of these institutions during the calendar year in which nominations are sought are eligible as well.
- Extension educators who have worked in the CD area for at least TEN years
- Extension educators with a CD focus working in a state, multi-county, or county level positions

Furthermore, it is required that nomination packets be assembled and submitted to the SRDC by the deadline date. These packets include:

- A primary letter of nomination prepared by an Extension educator or administrator in the South having an excellent command of the accomplishments of the nominee.
- Select examples of CD Products developed by the nominee
- Support letters from up to three individuals who are knowledgeable of the nominee's Extension CD work, and who can affirm the significance of the person's lifetime achievements in advancing CD work within a variety of arenas (i.e., state, region, national, international)

All packets submitted by the deadline date are evaluated by a subcommittee of the SRDC Technical and Operational Advisory Committee (TOAC), a group composed of land-grant university faculty and other rural development partners in the region. It is this subcommittee that selects the *Teater Lifetime Achievement* awardee.

