

# *Around the South*

April 2006, Vol. 2 No. 4

## ■ SRDC Publications

- **Final *Measuring Rural Diversity Policy Series* Brief Released**

The newest -- and final -- brief in this series (Volume 3, Issue No. 2), "Measuring Economic Distress: A Comparison of Designations and Measures," written by Amy Glasmeier at Pennsylvania State University, Larry Wood at Ohio University, and Kurt Fuellhart at Shippensburg University, explores the use of different measures of economic health and distress primarily in relationship to rural areas. This brief is available on the SRDC website at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/measuring/series/glasmeier.pdf>.

- **Twelfth *Food Assistance Needs of the South's Vulnerable Populations* Now Available**

The newest brief in this series, "Food Availability & Food Deserts in the Nonmetropolitan South," was written by Troy Blanchard at Mississippi State University and Thomas Lyson at Cornell University. Over the past thirty years, the structure of food retailing in the United States has changed dramatically. Local grocery stores that once served a small community or neighborhood are increasingly being replaced by regional or national chain grocers. In addition, big box general merchandisers have also entered the retail grocery sector with the advent of hybrid superstores that combine groceries with a wide array of product lines. A key consequence of this restructuring is the growing uneven distribution of food retailers across rural America.. This brief is available on the SRDC website at [http://srdc.msstate.edu/focusareas/health/fa/fa\\_12\\_blanchard.pdf](http://srdc.msstate.edu/focusareas/health/fa/fa_12_blanchard.pdf).

## ■ SRDC Items of Interest

- **2006 Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Innovation Grants Program Request for Proposals Announced**

The SRDC is pleased to announce its continued support for food and nutrition-related research focusing on the South. As in past years, the program is designed to support innovative social sciences-related research that advances our knowledge and understanding of food assistance and nutrition issues impacting vulnerable populations in the South. The deadline date is June 23, 2006. The RFP is available at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/O6rpf.pdf>.

## ■ Other Items of Interest

- **Center for the Study of Social Policy Releases *Policy Matters* Report**

Key to a state's prosperity are the strength of its work force, the health of communities, and the

efficiency of government investment, all of which can be enhanced by adopting policies that improve opportunities for children and families. As state leaders pursue these goals, they need strong research evidence to help them assess which policies can produce results most effectively and give states a high rate of return on their policy investments. The *Policy Matters: Twenty State Policies to Create Bright Futures for America's Children, Families and Communities* report serves as such a guide by assembling research on effective policies in the areas most important to a family's opportunity and stability: employment, income and asset growth, health, education, and healthy family relationships.

Several reports are available in different formats on the Center's website at <http://www.policymatters.us/>.

- ***Forest Resources: The Heartbeat of the South***

The Southern Forest Research Partnership, Inc. recently released the publication, "Forest Resources: The Heartbeat of the South." This twenty-five page publication examines the values of Southern forests and the threats that may permanently alter the region. Available online at <http://sfrponline.net/forestresources.pdf>.

- ***New Book Available from the American Association of Community Colleges, Cool Community Colleges: Creative Approaches to Economic Development***

In December 2004, Regional Technology Strategies and the Trans-Atlantic Technology and Training Alliance organized an international conference that targeted exemplary and potentially valuable contributions of community colleges to the development of creative people, local businesses, and their communities. The conference, "Community Colleges in Creative Economies," highlighted practices based on the arts, design, and/or culture that have strengthened communities and opened up new opportunities for people and places with the greatest needs. The American Association of Community Colleges recently captured the essence of the presentations and discussions at that event in the form of a book titled, *Cool Community Colleges: Creative Approaches to Economic Development*. The book, written by Stuart Rosenfeld, is available from AACC's Community College Press at <http://www.aacc.nche.edu>.

- ***Oklahoma State University's Mike Woods Testifies Before Congress on Rural Entrepreneurship***

Rural America got its say before Congress March 30, thanks in part to testimony from Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Rural Development Specialist Mike Woods. Woods, professor of agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University and a nationally recognized leader in rural economic development extension programs, spoke before the House Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research, chaired by Rep. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma. Read this press release online at [http://www2.dasnr.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=222&Itemid=35](http://www2.dasnr.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=222&Itemid=35).

- **2006 Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Innovation Grants Program**

RFP Available at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/06rpf.pdf>

Deadline Date: Postmarked by June 23, 2006

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**

Volume 8, Number 4, April 2006

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/apr06.htm> -- Available April 28

The SRDC staff compiles Grant Connections primarily for the faculty of land-grant colleges and universities in the South to provide funding information in support of activities in agricultural economics, education, human sciences, rural sociology, youth development, and other related disciplines.

## ■ SRDC Sponsored Conferences & Trainings

- **2006 Southern Institute for Rural Development (SIRD)**

April 24-26, 2006

West Monroe, Louisiana

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sird06/>

## ■ Other Conferences & Trainings

- **2006 National Priester Health Conference**

April 25-27, 2006

Louisville, Kentucky

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/fcs/priester/>

- **Agricultural Biotechnology Research for Public Goods and Private Goods: The Roles of University-Industry Relationships**

May 1, 2006

Washington DC

<http://farmfoundation.org/>

- **Southern Rural Development Initiative's 10th Anniversary Celebration**

May 1-2, 2006

Atlanta, Georgia

<http://www.srdi.org/regindex.htm>

- **5th Natural Resource Extension Professionals Conference -- *Finding the "Ability" in Sustainability***

May 14-17, 2006

Park City, Utah

<http://www.anrep2006.org/>

- **2006 Spring National SBIR/STTR Conference**  
May 15-18, 2006  
Louisville, Kentucky  
<http://www.sbirworld.com/KY/>
- **Western Community Vitality Initiative Workshop and Resource Fair**  
Foundations of Practice: Community Development Training for Extension Professionals  
May 24-25, 2006  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
<http://extension.usu.edu/wrdc/WCVIweb1.cfm>
- **Critical Processes and Properties Regulating Carbon Cycling in Southern Forests**  
May 31-June 2, 2006  
Asheville, North Carolina  
<http://sfrponline.net/events.htm>
- **Southern Innovation Summit**  
June 4-6, 2006  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
<http://www.southern.org/conf.asp>
- **GIS Population Science Training Program**  
Population Research Institute, Pennsylvania State University  
June 4-16, 2006  
State College, Pennsylvania  
<http://www.csiss.org/GISPopSci/workshops/>
- **Connecting Rural Communities: Cooperative Extension as a Catalyst**  
June 6-7, 2006  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
<http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/ConnectingCommunities/ConnectingCommunities.html>
- **2006 National Value-Added Agriculture Conference**  
June 12-13, 2006  
Nashville, Tennessee  
<http://cpa.utk.edu/default.htm>
- **Creative Economy Workshop**  
Sponsored by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, in conjunction with the 2006 annual meetings of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA)

June 13-14, 2006

Mystic, Connecticut

*For more information, contact Todd Gabe, University of Maine, at [todd.gabe@umit.maine.edu](mailto:todd.gabe@umit.maine.edu).*

- **2006 CDS Annual International Conference**  
"Communities That Click: Individuals, Families, and Organizations Working Together"  
June 25-28, 2006  
St. Louis, Missouri  
<http://comm-dev.org/>
- **GIS Population Science Training Program**  
Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science, University of California, Santa Barbara  
July 10-22, 2006  
Santa Barbara, California  
<http://www.csiss.org/GISPopSci/workshops/>
- **Intensive Economic Development Training Course**  
Session I: July 24 - 28, 2006  
Session II: September 11 - 15, 2006  
Auburn, Alabama  
<http://www.aces.edu/crd/iedtc.php>
- **NCR-SARE 2006 National Conference -- *A Midwest Homecoming: Sharing a New Tradition of Sustainability***  
August 15-17, 2006  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin  
<http://www.sare2006.org>
- **2006 National Extension Tourism Conference -- *NETworking in Tourism: People, Places and Partnerships***  
September 10-13, 2006  
Burlington, Vermont  
<http://www.esf.edu/NET2006/>
- ***Closing the Wealth Gap: Building Assets Among Low-Income Households*, A Policy Research Forum**  
Held in conjunction with the CFED 2006 Assets Learning Conference  
September 19-21, 2006  
Phoenix, Arizona
- **Creating Business Success**  
October 8-11, 2006  
Tallahassee, Florida  
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/calendar/famu/famuconf.html>

## ■ People in the News

- Dr. Jim Trapp has been named Associate Director position for our Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service effective May 1, 2006.
- Dr. Clarence E. Watson has been appointed Associate Director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University.

## ■ Job Opportunities

- Director  
North Carolina Agromedicine Institute  
View announcement: <http://www.ncagromedicine.org/>
- National Program Leader (Agricultural Risk Management)  
CSREES, USDA  
View announcement:  
<https://jobs1.quickhire.com/scripts/usda.exe/runjobinfo?aOrg=7&aJob=434&U>

## ■ Submit Announcements

Job announcements and other items of interest may be sent to Emily Shaw, [emilye@srdc.msstate.edu](mailto:emilye@srdc.msstate.edu), for possible inclusion in future issues.

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