

Around the South

January 2007, Vol. 3 No. 1

■ SRDC Publications

- **SRDC's 2006 Annual Report Now Available**

2006 was another banner year for the Center. With important financial support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and with the active engagement of community development colleagues across a host of land-grant schools in the South, we took the time to garner the insights of people across the region on the current and emerging challenges impacting the rural South. Fourteen state rural development roundtables were held, and our new strategic plan for the next three to five years will be announced in the coming months. Our investment in the research efforts of our land-grant colleagues has remained strong. Our Extension efforts have moved into new arenas, including an expanded effort in rural entrepreneurship. Furthermore, we have remained steadfast in our efforts to provide our land-grant faculty and leaders with information and tools that can be used to strengthen community development work in their own states. A case in point is the recent release of the Southern Region Information Toolkit, a Web-based resource that offers our colleagues an impressive array of data on all counties in the South. While we take pride in our past activities – efforts that would not have been possible without the full support of our land-grant university Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service leaders, our CSREES partners and a host of funding agencies and foundations – we are anxious to implement our new strategic blueprint. We look forward to sharing our new priorities and working in tandem with our land-grant colleagues and other rural development partners to make great things happen in the South in these new priority areas. View the report at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/publications/annual06.pdf>.

■ National Items of Interest

- **2007 NACDEP Conference -- Double Early Bird Registration Deadline is January 15**

The National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) 2007 conference registration is now available. This third annual conference is slated for April 16-19, 2007, in Philadelphia, PA. This year's theme is the "Declaration of Interdependence: The Fabric of Community." Workshop tracks are: Economic Development (Community Focus; Assistance for individual businesses and/or entrepreneurs; Specific Sectors, e.g. agricultural, tourism, natural resources); Community Decision Making; Education and Workforce Development; Local Government and Community Services; Land Use and Natural Resources; Leadership Development (Community Focus; Individual Focus); Evaluation and Research Methods and Tools; Organizational Development; Sustainable Development; and Community Initiatives. "Double Early Bird" discount ends January 15, 2007. Two pre-conference sessions are being

offered: We the People: Building Inclusive Communities and Foundations of Practice: Building Your Community Development Knowledge and Skills. Three post-conference tours are being offered: Farm/Nonfarm Conflicts, Urban Farms/Local Foods and Mural Arts. Register online or download the registration form at <http://www.nacdep.net>.

- **Carsey Institute Releases "Biofueling Rural Development" Report**

Biofuels play a crucial role in America's quest for oil-independence. In recent years, the biofuel industry has seen significant technology and efficiency advances, as well as expansions in the materials that can be used to create biofuels. Grains and oilseeds -- the main feedstocks for biofuels today -- are limited in their ability to meet our fuel needs, but a shift to biomass feedstocks offers much higher and nationwide production possibilities. For rural communities in particular, biomass refineries may offer promise of new investment, job growth and revitalization. Biofuels will be high on Congress' 2007 agenda, with the rewriting of the Farm Bill. To learn more about the promise and challenges that biofuels present for rural America, read the new Carsey Institute report, "Biofueling Rural Development" at http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/Biofuels_final.pdf.

- **Education Week's *Quality Counts 2007* Features *State Highlights Reports***

Quality Counts 2007 examines the state of state educational policymaking using a unique combination of original state data and in-depth journalism, to which has been added commentaries by leading experts in the field. This 11th edition also begins to track state efforts to create a more seamless education system by looking at performance across the various sectors, and at state attempts to define students' "readiness" to succeed from one stage to the next. The *State Highlights Reports* assemble important findings in an accessible format that allows readers to examine a particular state's performance on this year's indicators. For most indicators, national results are also provided as a benchmark against which state performance can be gauged. The state reports are available to download at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/01/04/17shr.h26.html>, and the entire report can be viewed at <http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/qc/2007/17shr.us.h26.pdf>.

- **Rural Sociological Society Calls for Abstracts**

The 2007 annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society provides an opportunity to advance knowledge about rural social change and make that knowledge more accessible and useful to practitioners. The meeting, Social Change and Restructuring in Rural Societies: Opportunities and Vulnerabilities, will be held in Santa Clara, CA, August 2-5, 2007. RSS will highlight selected, juried papers at the conference. Interested individuals or teams may submit an abstract to the 2007 Rural Sociology Refereed Papers Committee for review by February 1, 2007. Those who submit abstracts must submit completed papers via the RSS Conference Web site by April 15, 2007. RSS is also calling for abstracts for posters, nonjuried papers, workshops, roundtables, and panels. All abstracts should be submitted via the RSS Web site by February 1, 2007. For more information visit the RSS Web site at <http://ruralsociology.org/>.

- **Women's Agricultural Network Course Helps Ag Entrepreneurs Plan for Success**

The Women's Agricultural Network will offer an on-line session of Growing Places, a non-credit course that helps people explore the possibilities and realities of owning or expanding an agricultural business. The session will begin the week of January 22 and conclude in mid-March. Growing Places participants develop goals for themselves and their businesses, become more familiar with financing options, identify and evaluate available resources, examine marketing strategies, and learn about agencies and organizations that provide support and assistance to farmers. Growing Places is open to anyone. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. A broadband connection is recommended. Tuition is \$125, but there is a \$25 discount for people who register before January 10. For more information and to obtain registration materials, visit WAgN's website at <http://www.uvm.edu/wagn>.

■ Funding Opportunities

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

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<http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/dec06.htm>

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

- **E-Commerce Strategies for Small Businesses and Communities**

A Rollout of New Extension Educational Curricula developed as part of the SRDC and CSREES/USDA "Rural E-Commerce Extension Initiative: A National Demonstration Project"

June 4-6, 2007

Lied Lodge and Conference Center

Nebraska City, Nebraska

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

■ Other Conferences & Trainings

- **Third Annual Tri-State Diversity Conference**

Hosted by Kentucky State University, University of Kentucky, Purdue University, and The Ohio State University

January 11-12, 2007

Covington, Kentucky

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/dearborn/diversityconf.htm>

- **2007 Outlook Forum -- Agriculture at the Crossroads: Energy, Farm & Rural Policy**
March 1-2, 2007
Arlington, Virginia
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>
- **National Business Incubation Association's 21st International Conference**
April 1-4, 2007
Seattle, Washington
http://www.nbia.org/nbia_events/conf2007/index.php
- **Bio-Fuels, Food and Feed Tradeoffs**
April 12-13, 2007
St. Louis, Missouri
Call for Papers ends February 15
http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/farmfdn_biofuels.pdf
- **2007 NACDEP Conference**
"Declaration of Interdependence: The Fabric of Community"
April 16-19, 2007
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Double Early Bird Registration Deadline is January 15
<http://nacdep.net>
- **National Extension Risk Management Education Conference**
April 17-18, 2007
Phoenix, Arizona
<http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/conf07/>
- **21st Century Families Conference: From Research to Reality**
April 17-19, 2007
Little Rock, Arkansas
http://www.arfamilies.org/21st_century/default.htm
- **Public Issues Leadership Development Conference**
"Connectivity: Community to the Capitol"
April 23-25, 2007
Washington, DC
<http://www.icep.org/pild.htm>
- **Children, Youth and Families at Risk Conference**
May 2-4, 2007

Chicago, Illinois

<http://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/cyfar/call.html>

- **Exploring Innovation: A Conference on Community Development Finance**
May 2-4, 2007
St. Louis, Missouri
<http://www.stlouisfed.org/community/innovation/>
- **National Urban Extension Conference**
"The Future Urban Extension Agenda: Reaching New and Diverse Audiences"
May 7-10, 2007
Kansas City, Missouri
<http://extension.missouri.edu/urbanconf/>
- **National Poverty Center's The Impact of Religion and Faith-Based Organizations on the Lives of Low Income Families**
June 7, 2007
Washington, D.C.
Call for Papers ends January 31
<http://www.npc.umich.edu/news/events/religion&poverty/>
- **Society for the Study of Social Problems 57th Annual Meeting**
"Research Matters: Creating Knowledge, Policy, and Justice"
August 10-12, 2007
New York, New York
Call for Session Proposals ends January 31
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/23>
- **Transatlantic Conference on the Science and Education of Land Use**
September 24-26, 2007
Washington, DC
Call for Papers/Abstracts ends January 22
<http://nercrd.psu.edu/taluc/>
- **SARE 20th Anniversary National Conference**
March 25-27, 2008
Kansas City, Missouri
<http://sare.org/>

■ People in the News

- Dr. Mike Woods has been named department head for the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University effective January 22, 2007.

■ In Memoriam

- Two individuals that have been active partners with the SRDC passed away in December 2006. Dr. Jim Nelson, an agricultural economist at the University of Idaho, died suddenly in early December. Jim played an active role on the eXtension Entrepreneurship Team (coordinated by the SRDC) and contributed to several community/economic development training activities sponsored by the Center in recent years.

Dr. Tom Lyson, a rural sociologist on the faculty at Cornell University, died in late December. In his previous position at Clemson University, Tom made significant contributions to research on rural labor markets and low-tech employment in the rural South. Even though Tom moved from Clemson to Cornell several years ago, he never abandoned his interest in the rural South. One of his recent contributions focused on the positive role of rural schools in contributing to the vitality of rural communities. The article appeared in a special rural education report published by the SRDC in partnership with the Economic Research Service in 2005.

Both of these individuals have left an important mark on the work of the SRDC and land-grant faculty in the South. Their energy, enthusiasm, intellect, and commitment to the work of the SRDC will be greatly missed.

■ Job Opportunities

- Assistant/Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Tennessee
View announcement: <http://uthr.admin.utk.edu/emplcomp/FacultyVacancy.shtml>
- Associate Dean for Extension and Associate Director of the Cooperative Extension Service
University of Kentucky
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/uky_adean.doc
- Community Development Specialist
University of Missouri Extension
View announcement:
<http://extension.missouri.edu/careers/positionannouncements/CDV075.html>
- Economic Development Specialist
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/usdafs_eds.doc

- McQuinn Chair in Entrepreneurial Leadership
University of Missouri-Columbia
View announcement:
http://www.ssu.missouri.edu/DASS/positions/McQuinn_Chair_Position_Description.pdf
- Program Associate - Community and Economic Development
University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
View Announcement:
<https://jobs.uaex.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1160771626210>
(Posting # 0060009)
- Senior Research Associate in Economic Development
Center for Governmental Studies
Northern Illinois University
View announcement: <http://www.niurdi.org/about/jobs.htm>
- Tenure-track Faculty Positions (2)
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Rutgers University
View announcement: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/rutgers.doc>
- USDA National Needs Fellowships
Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia
<http://dass.missouri.edu/agecon/grad/default.htm>
 - Masters degree in Agricultural Economics with a multidisciplinary specialization in rural community sustainability
 - Doctoral Studies in Agribusiness Management and Sustainable Agriculture

■ Submit Announcements

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

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