

Around the South

February 2007, Vol. 3 No. 2

■ 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>.

■ SRDC Items of Interest

- **Pre-Proposals Being Sought for the 2007 National Rural E-Commerce Grants Program**

The SRDC, in partnership with its sister Regional Rural Development Centers, is pleased to announce another round of funding for the e-commerce competitive grants program. The intent of this program is to support the development or expansion of innovative educational resources focusing on key e-commerce topics. This year we are requiring pre-proposals, which must be submitted by March 15. A select number of persons submitting pre-proposals will be invited to complete a more detailed proposal for consideration by the National E-Commerce Extension Advisory Committee. These invitations will be made by April 1, 2007. Please Note: This is a

national competitive grants program open to any Extension educator in the U.S. Full details are available online at http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/07rfp_pre.pdf.

- **Applications Now Being Accepted for the 2007 Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Southern Rural Development Center is pleased to announce that applicants are being sought for the Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award for 2007. The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual (not a team) who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development area. The award comes with a \$500 stipend. The deadline for applications is March 14, 2007. Complete details are available at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/07teateraward.pdf>.

■ National Items of Interest

- **2007 Development Report Card of the States**

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) has recently released the 20th annual edition of its well-known *Development Report Card of the States*. The report card assesses state performance on 67 different measures that track a state's performance in terms of development capacity, business vitality and economic performance. States are graded on their performance in these three baskets of indicators. Connecticut and Delaware are this year's straight-A students. Other top performers on CFED's honor roll include Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Utah, and Wisconsin. In the category of business vitality, the top three performers were Colorado, Massachusetts, and Alabama. View the Corporation for Enterprise Development's 2007 *Development Report Card of the States* online at <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=zpub7bab.0.xqchc7bab.ildv4zbab.7888&ts=S0225&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cfed.org%2Ffocus.m%3Fparentid%3D34%26siteid%3D2346%26id%3D2346>.

- **Call for Papers: *Capital versus Community: Case Studies of Community Asset Building***

Humanity & Society's Special Issue is dedicated to the exploration of community-based asset building. Globalization and capital mobility threaten the economic and social base of many communities. This special issue, titled "Capital versus Community," will examine how community-based development efforts are responding to these challenges, the obstacles they face, and the impacts and outcomes of their activities. We are looking for case studies in a wide variety of contexts (e.g., rural, urban and suburban) and involving different racial and ethnic groups (e.g., African American, Latino, and American Indian). Manuscripts should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages of text, plus notes and references, and should follow the "Notice to Contributors" guidelines supplied at <http://www.humanistsociology.org>. Papers should be submitted via e-mail to Ann Goetting, the Executive Editor, at humanityandsociety@wku.edu or Gary Green at pggreen@wisc.edu. Deadline: September 1, 2007.

- **Carsey Institute's Report on *The Minimum Wage and Rural America***
 The newest report from the Carsey Institute finds that nearly two million rural workers would benefit from an increase in the federal minimum wage. This report highlights that this increase will benefit an even higher percentage of workers in rural areas than urban areas. It is available on their website at
http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/Carsey_MinimumWage_FS_rv.pdf.
- **MDC Releases *State of the South 2007***
 MDC's *State of the South 2007*, the sixth in the biennial series, calls upon the region's philanthropic organizations to think more creatively and act more boldly to help the South address its self-limiting inequities and spur its competitiveness in a global economy. The report makes a compelling case that the South needs both more philanthropy and philanthropy that addresses the dual challenges of equity and competitiveness. Visit MDC's website at <http://www.mdcinc.org> to view the electronic version or for an order form and price list for ordering hard copies.
- **Ralph L. Tabor Extension Fellowship Announced**
 The National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), offers a unique fellowship program for Extension faculty and staff. The Ralph L. Tabor Extension Fellowship offers the opportunity to live and work in Washington, D.C., to lend expertise to the nation's 3,066 counties, learn first-hand about the workings of Congress and federal agencies, and take a lead role in enhancing the national partnership between NACo, the Cooperative Extension Service and the nation's land-grant universities. It provides a professional development opportunity to work at NACo, a national legislative and public affairs, research, and technical services organization. The Extension Fellow also works closely with CSREES to gain insight into Extension's federal partner and with NASULGC to enhance the relationship between counties and higher education. Full applications are requested by March 30, 2007, to be considered for the one-year term that begins approximately August 1, 2007. Full guidelines are available at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/tabor.pdf>. For more information, contact Sherry Teachout Glenn, sglenn@iastate.edu, or Stephanie Osborn, sosborn@naco.org.
- **Western Rural Development Center Announces Search for Director**
 The Western Rural Development Center has announced a search for director. The WRDC is one of four USDA-sponsored Regional Rural Development Centers in the country. It works closely with cooperating land-grant universities in 13 Western states and four Pacific territories to promote research and extension programs designed to strengthen rural communities businesses, and families. Hosted by Utah State University, WRDC is federally-funded, with additional support from USU and extramural grants. The WRDC Director works closely with a board of directors that represents the LGU system in the West and other representatives of rural development agencies. The position of Director is a 12-month, tenure-eligible administration position, with a faculty appointment at the rank of Associate or Full Professor is

an academic department appropriate to the disciplinary background of the successful candidate. A PhD is required in social science, natural resources, or a closely-related field, with primary emphasis on rural economic and/or community development. Experience with rural development issues affecting the Western region is desirable. For more information about the position, and the search, see the USU Human Resources website at <https://jobs.usu.edu> (Req #050671). For more information about the Center visit the WRDC website at <http://extension.usu.edu/WRDC/>. The review of applications will begin March 5, 2007 and remain open until the position is filled.

■ Funding Opportunities

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

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<http://srcd.msstate.edu/funding/feb07.htm> -- Available Feb. 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

- **E-Commerce Strategies for Small Businesses and Communities -- Space is limited; register now!**

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://srcd.msstate.edu/ecommerce/07training/>

- **eCommerce: An Opportunity Whose Time Has Come**

Offered by the NCRCD in cooperation with the SRDC

Online Breeze Conference

February through June, 2007

10-11:30 a.m. CST

<http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/breeze/ecommerce/index.htm>

■ Other Conferences & Trainings

- **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
- **National Farmworker Conference**
 "Sowing the Seeds of Success: Harvesting the American Dream"
 April 1-4, 2007
 San Antonio, Texas
<http://www.mafofarmworker.com/>
- **National Priester Extension Health Conference**
 "Extension on the Move: Advancing Health for Every Body"
 The SERA-19 Rural Health Group will meet in conjunction with this meeting on April 10
 April 10-12, 2007
 Kansas City, Missouri
<http://www.muhealth.org/~cme/Priester07/priester07a.shtml>
- **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
 Early Bird Registration Deadline is March 12
<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.jcep.org/pild.htm>
- **Children, Youth and Families at Risk Conference**
May 2-4, 2007
Chicago, Illinois
<http://fyfs.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, DC
<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
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/23>
- **Transatlantic Conference on the Science and Education of Land Use**
September 24-26, 2007
Washington, DC
<http://nercrd.psu.edu/taluc/>
- **SARE 20th Anniversary National Conference**
March 25-27, 2008

Kansas City, Missouri

<http://sare.org/>

■ Job Opportunities

- 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 (2 positions)
University of Missouri Extension
East Central Region:
<http://extension.missouri.edu/careers/positionannouncements/CDV096.html>
South Central Region:
<http://extension.missouri.edu/careers/positionannouncements/CDV033.html>
- Deputy Administrator, Plant and Animal Systems
CSREES/USDA
View announcement: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/jobs_vacancy.html
- Director
Western Rural Development Center
Utah State University
View announcement: <https://jobs.usu.edu> (Req #050671)
- Economic Development Director
Heart of Wisconsin Business & Economic Alliance
View announcement: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/heartofwi.doc>
- Editor
Journal of the Community Development Society
View announcement: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/cdsjournal.doc>
- Extension Agent - Community Development
Clemson University
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/cu_eacd.doc
- National Communications Specialist
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program
View announcement: http://www.sare.org/about/comm_specialist_job.htm
- Research Associate
Community Policy Analysis Center

University of Missouri-Columbia

View announcement: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/cpac.doc>

- Senior Research Associate in Economic Development
Center for Governmental Studies
Northern Illinois University
View announcement: <http://www.niurdi.org/about/jobs.htm>
- 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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