

Around the South

June 2007, Vol. 3 No. 6

■ SRDC Publications

- **SRDC Releases New Report on Our Nation's Food Assistance Programs**
"Strengthening Our Nation's Food Assistance Programs" highlights important and practical contributions made by RIDGE researchers through studies that have focused on providing access to healthy foods at affordable prices, improving nutrition to build a healthy workforce, and responding to diverse needs. Funded by the USDA's Economic Research Service, the Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics Program provides research that informs program administrators, policymakers and analysts. This report can be viewed at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/publications/ridge07.pdf>.

■ SRDC Items of Interest

- **2007 RIDGE Program Request for Proposals -- Still time to submit!**
The SRDC is pleased to announce its continued support for food and nutrition-related research focusing on the South under the new banner of the RIDGE Program (RIDGE refers to Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics). As in past years, the program is designed to support innovative social sciences research that advances our knowledge and understanding of food assistance and nutrition issues impacting vulnerable populations in the South. The Economic Research Service remains a valuable partner with the SRDC in supporting this important work. Proposals must be postmarked by June 20, 2007. View the RFP online at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/focusareas/health/fa/07rfp.pdf>.
- **SRDC Hosts Successful E-Commerce Training**
The SRDC's "E-Commerce Strategies for Small Businesses and Communities" attracted nearly 65 individuals to Nebraska City last week. This national training offered participants an exciting variety of new e-commerce related Extension educational curricula. For further information, check out the next issue of *eNews* at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/enews/>.
- **Invitation to Join the SRDC Regional Entrepreneurship Resource Team**
If you are engaged, or have an active interest in entrepreneurship-related activities, the SRDC would like to invite you to join our regional entrepreneurship resource team. This team is not limited to land-grant faculty/Extension educators. Community college faculty, government organizations, nonprofit groups, foundations, small business representatives,

entrepreneurs, community leaders, etc. are all invited to join this important regional team. The form to signup is available at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/entrecop.htm>.

■ National Items of Interest

- **Carsey Institute Releases New Report Regarding Low Wages and High Turnover Prevalent in Direct Care and Child Care Workforce**

A new report by the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire examines the economic well-being of workers in two low-wage, predominantly female care giving occupations plagued with high turnover—direct care workers (personal care assistants, home care aides, home health aides, and certified nursing assistants) and child care workers (preschool and nursery school teachers, center-based child care providers, and home-based family child care providers). One in every two direct care workers and one in every three child care workers live in a low-income family, and many live in poverty. To read more, access this policy brief at

http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/Caregivers%20Brief_final.pdf.

- **Latest Issue of *Rural Realities* Is Now Available**

Global economic trends have fundamentally altered the rural landscape. Manufacturing, a mainstay of rural economies, has steadily declined, and many communities are losing their "best and brightest" as young people leave in search of greater opportunities elsewhere. In this uncertain climate, understanding the possibilities for rural economic and community development has become more important -- and more complicated -- than ever. Scholars, policymakers, local leaders, and residents have come to realize that economic development efforts that worked in the past are no longer effective in a global "knowledge economy." Instead, many analysts now believe that the best hope for rural areas to participate in the national and global economy lies in the development of small manufacturing and service firms that match local assets with emerging market opportunities. To read more, check out the latest issue of *Rural Realities*, "Getting Connected: Broadband Services a Key to a Vibrant Rural America," which was written by Theodore Alter, Jeffrey Bridger, Sheila Sager, Kai Schafft and William Shuffstall, at <http://www.ruralsociology.org/pubs/RuralRealities/Volume2Issue1.html>.

- **New Report Highlights Community Development by Tribal and Native-serving Colleges**

Rebuilding Hope, Reclaiming History and Culture, Restoring Health: Stories of Success from Tribal and Native-serving Colleges was recently released by the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. It provides a snapshot of how tribally-controlled community colleges make a difference in Indian communities and how Native-serving colleges in Hawaii and Alaska contribute to the growth of assets for Native Hawaiians and Alaskans. This report describes many promising practices and identifies 39 specific

examples of how these institutions act as spurs to economic development; pathways to education and careers; places that preserve tradition and culture; and sources of support for tribal members coping with poverty and disease. The institutions highlighted in the report demonstrate the power of community colleges to aid Native people in their quest for a higher quality of life for themselves and the next seven generations. The report is available on the NCRCD website: <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/>.

- **Southern Growth Policies Board Releases *EnterpriseSouth.biz*, The 2007 Report on the Future of the South**

Released on June 3, 2007, at the Southern Workforce Summit in St. Louis, Missouri, *EnterpriseSouth.biz* calls for a cultural shift in the South to an enterprise economy, characterized by a workforce that is knowledgeable, entrepreneurial and innovative. *EnterpriseSouth.biz* outlines a three-pronged strategy: CONVENE, CONNECT and COMMIT to create an enterprise economy and workforce. The strategy proposes that Southern leaders CONVENE a series of conversations that include all the stakeholders in workforce development, to CONNECT the public more directly to education, and to maximize effectiveness within various public and private workforce efforts. The process is designed to lead parties to COMMIT to a non-partisan compact to build a southern workforce that is both enterprising and globally competitive. *EnterpriseSouth.biz* includes regional and state-level data on educational attainment and economic achievements as well as profiles of innovative programs. The report is available on the SGPB website at <http://www.enterprisesouth.biz/report.html>.

■ Funding Opportunities

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

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<http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/june07.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

- **2007 Joint Meeting of PLN, AEA & ASRED**

August 28-31, 2007

Louisville, Kentucky

<http://srpln.msstate.edu/> (additional information coming soon)

■ Other Conferences & Trainings

- **Intensive Economic Development Training Course**
July 23-27 and September 10-14
Auburn University, Alabama
<http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/ecdi/intensivecourse/>
- **70th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society**
August 2-5, 2007
Santa Clara, California
<http://www.ruralsociology.org/annual-meeting/2007/>
- **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>
- **RCCA Annual Conference**
"Red Hot, Rural and Ready!"
September 23-25, 2007
Albuquerque, New Mexico
<http://rcca.msgovt.org/rcca2007/>
- **Transatlantic Conference on the Science and Education of Land Use**
September 24-26, 2007
Washington, DC
<http://nercrd.psu.edu/taluc/>
- **Southern Region Water Quality Conference**
October 15-19, 2007
Fayetteville, Arkansas
<http://www.arnatural.org/water/>
- **Rural Community College Initiative Institute**
Strengthening the Partnership between Louisiana Community and Technical College System, LSU AgCenter and the Southern Rural Development Center
October 30-November 1, 2007
Oak Grove, Louisiana
http://srdc.msstate.edu/rcci/07institute_la/

- **NASULGC Annual Meeting**
"120 Years: Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future"
November 11-13, 2007
New York, New York
<http://www.nasulgc.org>
- **4th Annual Tri-State Diversity Conference: Expanding our Cultural Circles**
January 17-18, 2008
Clarksville, Indiana
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/tristatediversity.pdf>
- **SARE 20th Anniversary National Conference**
March 25-27, 2008
Kansas City, Missouri
<http://sare.org/>

■ People in the News

- Farm Foundation President, Walter J. Armbruster, to Retire in 2008. Armbruster currently serves as the Chair of the SRDC Board of Directors.
<http://www.farmfoundation.org/FFnews/Armbrusterretirement.htm>

■ Job Opportunities

- Assistant Extension State Specialist
Oklahoma State University
View announcement:
<http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/asstextstate%20specPOSITION%20ANNOUNCEMENT606.pdf>
- Assistant Professor of Agricultural Leadership
Texas A&M University
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/tamu_agleadership.pdf
- Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (2 positions)
University of Idaho
View announcement 1:
https://www.sites.uidaho.edu/AppTrack/Agency/Applicant/ViewAnnouncement.asp?announcement_no=10000031845
View announcement 2:

https://www.sites.uidaho.edu/AppTrack/Agency/Applicant/ViewAnnouncement.asp?announcement_no=10000005007

- Assistant Professor, Natural Resource/Environmental Economics
Oklahoma State University
View announcement:
http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/Position_Announcement_NR.pdf
- Assistant/Associate Professor, Extension Specialist, Community Viability
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
View announcement: <http://jobs.vt.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=185961>
- Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor of Agricultural Economics – Community Economic Development
Oklahoma State University
View announcement:
http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/Position_Announcement_ED_4.pdf
- Coastal Community Development Specialist, Marine and Earth Studies
University of Delaware
View announcement: <http://www.udel.edu/udjobs/current/p-2878.html>
- Development Officer
Black Belt Community Foundation
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/bbcf_do.doc
- Director
Western Rural Development Center
Utah State University
View announcement: <https://jobs.usu.edu> (Req #050671)
- Executive Director and Home Institution
Institute for Public Issues Education
View announcement:
<http://www.farmfoundation.org/IPIE/documents/ExecutiveDirectorpositiondescriptionMay07FINAL.pdf>
- President
Farm Foundation
View announcement:
<http://www.farmfoundation.org/FFnews/documents/FFPositionAnnouncement.pdf>
- Research Associate, Regional Affairs
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

View announcement: <http://www.kansascityfed.org/humanres/currentopenings.htm> (Job ID: 1242)

- Senior Extension Associate and Director, Agriculture and Environment Science and Policy Center
Pennsylvania State University
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/psu_sead.doc

■ 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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