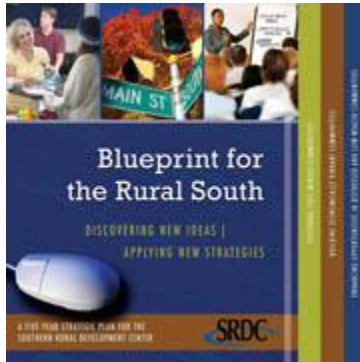


Around the South

July 2007, Vol. 3 No. 7

■ SRDC Publications



SRDC Releases *Blueprint for the Rural South: Discovering New Ideas, Applying New Strategies*

We are pleased to share with you the Southern Rural Development Center's new strategic plan, an effort that was undertaken with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This important document, titled *Blueprint for the Rural South: Discovering New Ideas, Applying New Strategies*, represents the culmination of a process that began over a year ago. Land-grant faculty from across the South worked hand-in-hand with us in capturing the views of nearly 600 Southerners. These important insights were studied, discussed and carefully weighed by our faculty-based advisory committee and our SRDC Board of Directors. The new plan calls for investments in three new priorities. We look forward to joining with our land-grant leaders and faculty, CSREES colleagues, and our key external partners in addressing the major rural development areas that the people of the rural South challenged us to tackle in the next five years. We welcome your thoughts and reactions about our new plan. You can access the report at:

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sp/blueprint07.pdf>.

■ National Items of Interest

• **Carsey Institute Report Focuses on Rural Children and Health care**

Despite a recent flurry of reports on health insurance coverage for children, virtually none of them have examined the unique situation of rural families where one-fifth of all our nation's poor children live. This report finds a higher percentage of children in rural areas depend on Medicaid or SCHIP for health insurance than children in urban areas and that the number of rural children relying on public health insurance is on the rise. The full report can be viewed on the Carsey Institute website at

http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/documents/RuralChildHealth_final.pdf.

- **EdWeek Offers New District Graduation Rate Map Tool**
EdWeek now offers a new interactive mapping technology that lets you explore high school graduation rate for any school district in the country. Full information can be found on their website at <http://www.edweek.org/apps/maps/>.
- **Main Street Economist Issue Focuses on Technological Innovation**
This issue of the *Main Street Economist* focuses on the power of technological innovation in rural America. The article explores how innovation can boost rural prosperity in three ways: by creating new products, improving production processes, and opening doors to new markets. The article also discusses some of the federal policies that support technological adoption in rural America. Read the article online at http://www.kc.frb.org/RegionalAffairs/Mainstreet/MSE_0707.pdf.
- **NCRCRD Announces Fall Series for "Foundations of Practice--Understanding Communities and their Dynamics"**
The North Central Community Development program leaders recognize the increasing need for Extension professionals to have basic knowledge and skills in the processes, tools and techniques of community development work. To address this need, a conceptual framework has been developed to provide a common language and understanding of community development work. Referred to as the Foundations of Practice: Community Development Core Competencies for Extension Professionals, this framework was developed by a national team and presented at the inaugural National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals conference in February 2005. It is composed of three major components: (1) Understanding Communities and their Dynamics, (2) Developing Successful Community Initiatives, and (3) Areas of Specialization and Emphasis. To find out more or for registration information, visit <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/projects/corecomp/>.

■ Funding Opportunities

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**
Volume 9, Number 5, June 2007
<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 -- Early Bird Registration Deadline is Aug. 1**
August 28-31, 2007
Louisville, Kentucky
<http://srpln.msstate.edu/conferences/07pln/>

■ 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/>
- **6th Biennial ANREP (Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals)**
"Leopolds legacy: Extension's Response to a Changing World"
May 20-23, 2008
Madison, Wisconsin
Call for Proposals is now open
<http://www.anrep.org/conferences/news-460a75a1c6611.pdf>

■ People in the News

- 1890 Association of Research Directors has announced that Carolyn Brooks will be their new Executive Director, beginning July 1. Carolyn is currently the experiment station director at University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD.
- Steven Leath, associate dean for research and director of the NC Agricultural Research Service at North Carolina State University, has been named vice president for research of the multi-campus University of North Carolina system:
http://www.northcarolina.edu/content.php/pres/news/releases/pr2007/20070703_leath.htm

- John Wheat, University of Alabama, honored with the 2007 Distinguished Educator Award from the National Rural Health Association at its annual meeting in Anchorage, AK, this past May.

■ Job Opportunities

- 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
University of Idaho
View announcement:
https://www.sites.uidaho.edu/AppTrack/Agency/Applicant/ViewAnnouncement.asp?announcement_no=10000031845
- 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
- Director
Western Rural Development Center
Utah State University
View announcement: <https://jobs.usu.edu> (Req #050671)
- President
Farm Foundation
View announcement:
<http://www.farmfoundation.org/FFnews/documents/FFPositionAnnouncement.pdf>
- Vice President of Economic Development
Heart of Wisconsin
View announcement: <http://www.heartofwi.com/howjobs/VPED.pdf>
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■ Submit Announcements

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

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