

Around the South

May 2008 Vol. 4, No. 5

SRDC Items of Interest

- **2008 RIDGE Program Call for Proposals Released**

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 (Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics) Program. As in past years, the program is designed to support innovative 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. To see the full announcement, visit

http://srdc.msstate.edu/files/ridge_grant_announcements.pdf

- **SRDC Announces Business Retention and Expansion Training** The SRDC is excited to announce its Business Retention and Expansion Training that will be held July 20-22, 2008, in Galveston, Texas. This training will introduce participants to the elements of a successful BR&E program, and provide an assessment and planning framework that can be used to evaluate an established BR&E program or design a program tailored to the specific needs and capacity of the local community. For more information and to register, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/economic/bre.htm>

- **Registration Open for 2008 SERA-19 Conference**

Registration is now open for the 2008 SERA-19 Conference, “Research Trends: Determining the Future of Health Programming.” The conference will be held August 4-6, 2008, in Houston, Texas. The theme was chosen to reflect this year’s focus on the cutting edge research influencing all aspects of health programming in rural areas. To learn more about SERA-19 and to register for the conference, go to

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sera19/index.html>

- **Enhancing Low-Wealth Communities: A Regional Summit Planned for Late May**

In response to the SRDC’s expanded focus on low-wealth communities, especially places situated in high poverty areas of the South, the SRDC is joining forces with the LSU Poverty Research Center, the Economic Research Service/USDA, and Southern University and A&M College in organizing an important regional summit titled, “Exploring Viable Opportunities for Low-Wealth Communities in the Delta: A Regional Summit.” The intent of the meeting, which will be held May 28-29, 2008, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is to provide an opportunity for a small group of university scholars, regional/state organizations and community-based partners to interact and discuss

contemporary poverty research. The summit is also designed to showcase successful and innovative poverty-alleviation work being done “on the ground” in low wealth areas of the Delta and other areas of the country. More information to come!

- **Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium: A Joint NERCRD and SRDC Initiative**
The entrepreneurship listening sessions hosted by the SRDC in 2005, coupled with the recent launch of the eXtension “Entrepreneurs and Their Communities” Web site, has created a buzz about entrepreneurship-related efforts across the nation. One area that is high on the list of “must haves” in rural areas is a set of quality programs that can help expand youth entrepreneurial opportunities. Under the leadership of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD), the SRDC is co-sponsoring the “Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium” June 4-6, 2008, at Penn State University. Nearly 20 products/programs, including research, educational resources, and academic courses, will be highlighted during the course of the workshop. For more information about the symposium, visit <http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/Entrepreneurship/YESymposium.html>

Other Items of Interest

- **Rural Compact Calls for Positive Changes for Rural America**
The Rural Compact, a project of the National Rural Assembly, is a movement of people and organizations devoted to building a stronger, more vibrant rural America. The National Rural Assembly is asking individuals and organizations to endorse the Rural Compact as a step forward for the nation as a whole. The Assembly will present the Compact and the endorsement list to those who are in a position to help rural communities, including federal and state policymakers, journalists, corporate leaders, philanthropists, community leaders and others. To read more about the Rural Compact, or to endorse it, go to <http://ruralcompact.org>

Funding Opportunities

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**
Volume 10, Number 4, April 2008
http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc_april08.html

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.

Conferences and Trainings

- **Building Communities Educational Series, "Community and Economic Development"**
September 14, 2007 -- June 13, 2008
Web Trainings
http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/communities/Building_Community.cfm
- **Southern Growth Policies Board Annual Conference**
"Youth – The *Real* Future of the South"
June 1-3, 2008
Little Rock, Arkansas
<http://www.southern.org/conference/conf.shtml>
- **Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium**
June 4-6, 2008
State College, Pennsylvania
<http://nercrd.psu.edu/Entrepreneurship/YESymposium.html>
- **Business Retention and Expansion Training**
July 20-22, 2008
Galveston, Texas
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/economic/bre.htm>
- **The Society for the Study of Social Problems 58th Annual Meeting**
"Crossing Borders: Activist Scholarship, Globalization, and Social Justice"
July 31-August 2, 2008
Boston, Massachusetts
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/23>
- **SERA-19 Conference**
"Research Trends: Determining the Future of Health Programming"
August 4-6, 2008
Houston, Texas
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sera19/index.html>
- **Regional Quality Growth Conference**
"Building Sustainable Communities for the 21st Century"
August 12-14, 2008
Charleston, South Carolina
<http://www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables/default.asp>

- **Galaxy III Conference**

"Celebrating the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity and Unique Qualities"

September 15-19, 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana

<https://sharepoint.agriculture.purdue.edu/ces/galaxy/default.aspx>

Job Opportunities

- Associate Director, Rural and Traditional Programs
Alabama Cooperative Extension Program
View announcement:
<https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/posannc/detail.php3?job=ZDQ3azN8MjEzfG45ajRr>
- Program Director, Community Development
Foundation for the Mid South
View announcement:
http://www.fndmidsouth.org/Documents/Comm_Development_0805.pdf
- Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
University of Georgia
View announcement: <http://www.caes.uga.edu/unit/hr/employment/attachment/alec.pdf>
- Vice Chancellor for Ag and Life Sciences/Dean, College of Ag and Life Sciences
Texas A&M University
View announcement:
<http://agrilife.tamu.edu/agrilifevcsearch/docs/VCDeanAgriLifePositionAnnouncement.pdf>

Submit Announcements

- Job announcements and other items of interest may be sent to [Julianna Brown](#) for possible inclusion in future issues.

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