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SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST

2008 Webinar Series Continues with *Helping Artisans Reach Global Markets*

After two successful Webinars, the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative's 2008 Webinar Series will offer *Helping Artisans Reach Global Markets* on November 20, 2008 at 2 p.m. Each Webinar is set to introduce Extension personnel and community leaders to the new online curricula. Curricula authors and SRDC staff will introduce the possibilities, instructional design, and their past experiences working with learners. After participating in Webinars, Extension educators will have a clearer idea of which curricula best fit their community's needs and strategies for implementation. This valuable series is hosted by the SRDC and is co-sponsored by the eXtension "Entrepreneurs and Their Communities" team. Upcoming Webinars include the following:

Helping Artisans Reach Global Markets Webinar

November 20, 2008

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. CST

Strengthening Competitive Advantage of Rural Businesses with e-Commerce and Experience Economy Strategies

December 16, 2008

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. CST

To sign up for Webinars and view the archived Webinars, *Connecting Rural Communities* and *Internet Strategies to Improve Farm Business Management*, visit

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

Funding Available for Extension Educators to Implement e-Commerce Strategies

As part of the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative, the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) is sparking national interest in the implementation of the Initiative's online learning modules. From getting rural communities online to revamping farm management, these curricula prepare entrepreneurs and small business owners to enjoy the benefits that e-commerce can bring. With an implementation mini-grant, U.S. Land-Grant Extension educators or teams may receive up to \$3,000 to implement one of the FOUR new e-commerce educational curricula that the SRDC has released, or is scheduled to release, over the next month. Proposals outlining how educators propose to implement these curricula are due by 5 p.m. on January 9, 2009. To view the one-hour Webinar discussing the request for proposals in

detail and to learn more about the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce>.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

New Report Discusses Current Characteristics of Rural America

Rural America at a Glance, 2008 Edition highlights the most recent indicators of social and economic conditions in rural areas for use in developing policies and programs to assist rural areas. The 2008 edition focuses on employment, poverty, population change, and demographic characteristics of nonmetro areas. Read the full report at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB40/>.

'America's first biofuels corridor' Travels through Southern States

Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana and the U.S. Department of Energy recently announced the development "America's first biofuels corridor." From the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast, Americans now have the opportunity to travel the entire I-65 corridor on alternative fuels. Boasting 31 biofuel (E85 and B20) stations, the 886 mile I-65 corridor stretches through Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama. The corridor was created through a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Learn more about the corridor at <http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/news/123411.html>.

New Report Addresses Concentrated Poverty in America

In collaboration with the Federal Reserve System, the Brookings Institute's Metropolitan Policy Program has issued a new report that examines concentrated poverty in the United States. The authors define concentrated poverty as Census tracts in which 40 percent of individuals live in families whose income falls below the federal poverty rate. A disproportionate share of these high poverty tracts is located in the South—primarily in Appalachian and Cotton Belt counties. The report provides an overview of concentrated poverty—its attributes, causes and effects—and presents in-depth profiles of 12 areas of concentrated poverty. Among the profiles areas are cities and counties in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, and West Virginia. To view the full report, visit <http://www.frbsf.org/cpreport/>.

States Struggle To Meet Demand for Unemployment Benefits

Seven Southern states currently have unemployment rates greater than the national average of 6.1 percent. In Mississippi and South Carolina, with the South's highest unemployment, the unemployment rate hovers above 7.5 percent. A recent article from the Stateline Web site finds that states are having trouble meeting the demand for unemployment benefits. State employees in North Carolina and Tennessee are overwhelmed with the processing of large requests for benefits, while other states are close to not having enough funds to pay the benefits. See your state's unemployment rate, and to learn more about how states are dealing with this crisis at <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=346126>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities

Volume 10, Number 7, October 2008.

http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc_oct08.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

Creating Entrepreneurial Communities

November 19, 2008

Lansing, Michigan

<http://www.cecmi.msu.edu/>

Facing Global Crises: Local Solutions to Energy, Food and Persistent Poverty

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference

December 7-9, 2008

Tuskegee, Alabama

<http://www.pawc.info>.

2009 National Jeanne Priester Extension Health Conference

April 6-8, 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana

<http://continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/PNEHC/>

NACDEP 2009: Creating Sustainable Communities in a Changing America

April 20-22, 2009

San Diego, California

<http://www.nacdep.net/>

National Extension Tourism Conference

June 14-17, 2009

Park City, Utah

<http://www.rpts.tamu.edu/tce/NET/Conference.htm>

Analyzing Poverty and Socioeconomic Trends Using the American Community Survey

June 22-26, 2009

Ann Arbor, Michigan

<http://www.npc.umich.edu/opportunities/papers/analyzingpovert>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service/USDA

View announcement:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/Employment/OpportunitiesPage.htm>

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist Organizational Development Unit,

Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/position_announcement.pdf

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Auburn University

View announcement:

<http://southernsociologicalsociety.org/joblist%20postings/Auburn%20listing.pdf>

Community Development Specialist, Cooperative Extension, University of Wisconsin-Extension

View announcement:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/hr/listing.cfm?PVL=C09030>

Economics, CSREES Economic and Community Systems Unit Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA)

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/econ_ipa_announcement.doc

Forestry Program Manager, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)

View announcement:

<http://www.maced.org/forestry-ad.htm>

Professor and Assistant Dean, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Resource Development, the University of Tennessee Extension

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/professor_and_assistantdeanut.pdf

Project Manager, Industrial Outreach Service, Mississippi State University

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/project_manager_%20%20job_announcement.pdf

Strategic Initiatives Director, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)

View announcement:

<http://www.maced.org/SID-ad.html>

Wyoming Excellence Chair in Community Development, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

View announcement:

<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/HREmployment/showjob.asp?jobid=3186>