



December 2008 Vol. 4, No. 12

As the 2008 year comes to a close, the staff of the SRDC would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have guided, nurtured, influenced, or actively contributed to the work of the Center over the past year. We are proud of what we have accomplished in 2008 and look forward with eagerness to the work we have before us in 2009. Keep an eye out for our 2008 Annual Report that we will release in January. Also slated to be released next year are a host of new products and training programs that are designed to advance the community and economic development work of our land-grant system in the region and beyond. We have every reason to believe that 2009 will be an exciting year for the SRDC as it explores innovative activities in concert with its land-grant university colleagues and other key rural development partners.

May you enjoy a happy holiday season, and we wish you the best in 2009!!

- Bo Beaulieu, Director

SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST

2008 e-Commerce Implementation RFP Deadline Approaches

Proposals for the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative's Program Implementation Mini-Grants are due January 9, 2009. U.S. Land-Grant Extension educators or teams are invited to submit proposals outlining how they propose to implement one of the four new e-commerce educational curricula that the SRDC has released this fall. The maximum amount allowed for any proposal is \$3,000. For more information about the mini grants program as well as to view the curricula and associated Webinars, visit the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative's Web site at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/index.html>.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Fruit Company to Share e-Commerce Experiences during Webinar

On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, the eXtension Entrepreneurs and Their Communities Webinar Series continues with "A Real Story about e-Commerce." [The Fruit Company](#) shares their story about their online business and how they have incorporated Web 2.0 applications

Designed for small business owners, farmers, business coaches and mentors. The Entrepreneurs & Their Communities team offers a free monthly Webinar on a variety of issues of interest to small business owners, farmers, business coaches and mentors. The Webinars are presented live on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm (eastern), 1:00 pm (central), 12:00 pm (mountain) and 11:00 am (pacific). All Webinars are [recorded and archived](#) for on-demand viewing at http://www.extension.org/pages/Entrepreneurs_and_Their_Communities_Webinar_Series.

2008 State New Economy Index Released

Five states—Massachusetts, Washington, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey—are leading the United States' transformation into a global, entrepreneurial and knowledge—and innovation-based New Economy, according to The 2008 State New Economy Index, released by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF). Mississippi and West Virginia ranked lowest among the states in making the transition to the New Economy. The other lowest-scoring states include, in reverse order, Arkansas, Alabama and Wyoming. The State New Economy Index measures the degree to which the structure of state economies match the ideal structure of the New Economy. The Index builds on the 1999, 2002 and 2007 reports, using 29 indicators to rank each state on the extent to which its economy is structured and operates to effectively compete nationally and globally. It divides the indicators into five categories that best capture what is new about the New Economy: knowledge jobs, globalization, economic dynamism, transformation to a digital economy and technological innovation capacity. View the 2008 State New Economy Index at <http://www.itif.org/index.php?id=200>.

New Guide for Youth Entrepreneurship Released for Policymakers

The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) has released the nation's first entrepreneurship guide for policymakers, a groundbreaking report, titled "[Youth Entrepreneurship in America - A Policymakers Action Guide](#)." Speaking to the value and importance of teaching youth entrepreneurship to low-income youth, the report discusses how America's competitiveness can be enhanced with entrepreneurship as well as addressing how entrepreneurship can help the staggering drop out epidemic in U.S. schools. View the full guide at http://files.e2ma.net/2849/assets/docs/policymakers_action_guide_2008.pdf

Can Low-Income Americans Afford a Healthy Diet?

Low-income households tend to eat less nutritious diets than other households. On average, they do not meet Federal recommendations for consumption of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products, and they consume fewer servings of these nutritious foods than other households. The difference between low-income households' food choices and those of other households raises concerns about the affordability of healthy foods. Do low-income households have unhealthy diets because they cannot afford more healthy ones? To learn more and read the full article, visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/November08/Features/AffordHealthyDiet.htm>.

Financial Crisis Disproportionately Affects Margins

The impact of the devastating financial crisis on the U.S. workforce is becoming clear. Numerous economic indicators have pointed downward following the federal government's \$700 billion bank bailout in October 2008. Indeed, various corporations and industries are seeking financial assistance from the federal government with threats of job cuts if they are not made solvent. The number of employed Americans has declined by 1.2 million over the first 10 months of 2008. While the impact of the weakening economy is widespread, it disproportionately affects those on the margins of the labor force, such as persons of color, teenagers, and those with low levels of education. To learn more about the employment instability on the margins, visit <http://www.prb.org/Articles/2008/employmentinstability.aspx>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities

Volume 10, Number 8, December 2008.

The latest issue will be released December 19 at
http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc_dec08.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

2009 National Jeanne Priester Extension Health Conference
April 6-8, 2009
Indianapolis, Indiana
<http://continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/PNEHC/>

Middle Management Conference "Excelling Beyond Today's Challenges"
April 6-8, 2009
University of Georgia in Athens

NACDEP 2009: Creating Sustainable Communities in a Changing America
April 20-22, 2009
San Diego, California
<http://www.nacdep.net/>

Southern Growth Policies Board 37th Annual Conference
The Business of Southern Energy

June 7-9, 2009
Biloxi, Mississippi
<http://www.southern.org/conference/conf.shtml>

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/analyzingpove>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service/USDA
View announcement:
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/Employment/OpportunitiesPage.htm>

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](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>