



**April 2009 Vol. 5, No. 4**

## **SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **SRDC Unveils New Web Page to Respond to Tough Economic Times**

The SRDC is pleased to announce “Strengthening Communities and Economies,” a new addition to our Web site that addresses the economic challenges facing our nation and region. As part of our commitment to families, businesses, and communities in the rural south, “Strengthening Communities and Economies” highlights important information and resources that can prove useful in guiding the work that local people and groups are pursuing to strengthen their communities and economies during this period of economic uncertainty.

We have organized the new page into five major topics: (1) In the News, (2) About the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, (3) Grant Opportunities, (4) Educational Resources, and (5) Research Reports and Statistics. If you know of resources that should be incorporated into this page, please let us know. To view “Strengthening Communities and Economies,” visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/crisis>.

### **Economic Research Service Suspends RIDGE Program for 2009**

The SRDC would like to inform our research colleagues that the Economic Research Service (ERS) has suspended the RIDGE program for 2009. Here is the official announcement that ERS just released last week: "The RIDGE Program is being revised. Consequently, financial support for new studies will not be provided in fiscal 2009. We anticipate resumption of the program in fiscal 2010, subject to the availability of funds. The RIDGE Conference to present findings of studies currently being conducted will occur as scheduled on October 15-16, 2009."

Please know that the SRDC remains strongly committed to the RIDGE Program and we are hopeful that our Center will be able to secure funding for the RIDGE effort once ERS resumes the program in FY2010. Please let us know if you have any questions.

### **New Report Discusses Assets and Opportunities in the Mid South Delta Region**

The Mid South Delta Region is blessed with some of our nation’s most diverse resources, resources that are linked to its culture heritage, natural resource amenities, and vibrant agriculture and manufacturing-based economies. But, local and global forces, along with technological advancements, have brought major stresses to the region. The newly released SRDC report, *A Look at the Mid South Delta Region: A Glimpse of Its Assets, Socioeconomic Complexion, and Emerging Opportunities*, discusses the region’s assets and stresses while

looking forward to possibilities ahead to improve the social and economic conditions. This report was funded in part by the National Rural Funders Collaborative. View the full report at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/files/midsouthdeltareport.pdf>.

### **SERA-19 Issues Call for Proposals for 2009 Conference**

SERA-IEG 19 Health members and partners are invited to submit proposals related to the conference theme, *Community-Based Efforts in Today's Economy: Determining the Future of Health Programming*. This theme has been chosen to reflect this year's focus community-based programs that influence all aspects of health programming in rural areas. However, this broad topic includes such categories as community-based intervention strategies for specific diseases; Extension programming work with immigrant populations where the consumption of healthcare is a cultural issue; and the economic analysis of healthcare delivery in rural areas (this area could include such topics as the importance of information technology; management and organization of health care entities; impacts of governmental policy actions; etc.). Visit the SERA-19 Web site at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/sera19/>

### **Registration Opens for 2009 Joint Meeting of SR-PLN, AEA & ASRED**

Online registration is now open for the 2009 SR-PLN, AEA & ASRED Joint Meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida on August 24-28, 2009. This year's theme, "Meeting the Challenges of a Changing World - Staying Relevant, Maintaining Funding and Adapting to Shifting Needs and Priorities" will address the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (The New Farm Bill), what it means for PLN, how it will be paid for, and changes to be expected in years to come. To register and view a tentative agenda, visit <http://srpln.msstate.edu/>.

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **Congress Passes Historic Civic Engagement Legislation**

On March 31, Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, a legislative initiative to expand and improve service opportunities for all Americans, harness social innovation toward public good, and ensure accountability, transparency and results. While this legislation represents a substantial increase in national service opportunities and encourages innovation across the sector, for National Conference on Citizenship, the Act is particularly meaningful for its accountability metrics and the inclusion of America's Civic Health Index. To learn more about the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and the National Conference on Citizenship, visit [http://www.ncoc.net/index.php?tray=content\\_blog&tid=top26&cid=359](http://www.ncoc.net/index.php?tray=content_blog&tid=top26&cid=359).

### **Traditionally Undercounted, Groups Step Up Effort to Get Accurate Numbers**

What seems like a simple question — How many Hispanics are living in the United States? — has become surprisingly complex as the 2010 census approaches. Hispanics and other minorities have historically been undercounted in the once-a-decade survey. Advocacy groups are now launching their traditional efforts to ensure an accurate count, but a variety of factors have created new problems for the painting of America's official portrait. Read more about undercounted groups in the census at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29725215/>.

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

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

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The latest issue will be released April 30 at [http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc\\_apr09.html](http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc_apr09.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**

### **NACDEP 2009: Creating Sustainable Communities in a Changing America**

April 20-22, 2009

San Diego, California

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

### **The South's Recovery: Making it Accountable and Green**

April 30, 2009

Atlanta - The Westin Peachtree Plaza

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/news/article.cfm?id=391>

### **3rd Annual Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course (TBEDC)**

May 4-8, 2009

Nashville, Tennessee

<http://www.ips.tennessee.edu/tbedc/>

### **Enhancing Local and Regional Food Systems: Exploring the Research, What Works, and What We Need to Learn**

May 19-20, 2009

Kerhonkson, New York

<http://nercrd.psu.edu/LocalFoods/Conference.html>

### **Strengthening Extension Advisory Leaders Conference (SEAL)**

May 19 - 21, 2009

Charlotte, North Carolina

<http://als.ces.ncsu.edu/>

### **4th Annual Town & Gown Best Practices in Building University/City Relations Conference**

June 1-4, 2009

Murray, Kentucky

[http://www.murraystate.edu/town\\_and\\_gown/conference/](http://www.murraystate.edu/town_and_gown/conference/)

**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>

**Microenterprise! The Engine for Economic Growth**

June 30, 2009

Lexington, Kentucky

<http://peakky.org>

**Rural Health SERA-19 Annual Conference and Working Session**

August 11-13, 2009

Nashville, Tennessee

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

**Southern Region Leadership Network**

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

August 24-28, 2009

Orlando, Florida

<http://srpln.msstate.edu/conferences/proceedings.htm>

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service/USDA**

View announcement:

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

**AgriLife Research Director, AgriLife Research, Texas A&M System**

View announcement:

<http://agresearchdirsearch.tamu.edu/>

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

View announcement:

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

**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)