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SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST

Help Add Educational Resources to the Community Dimension of MiTTnet

As communities wrestle with a sluggish economy, many leaders are taking a fresh look at using existing assets as a way to prevent economic erosion and promote community growth. The story is the same for the Extension professionals who helped build the Managing in Tough Times Network (see <http://mittnet.extension.org/>).

We need your help to continue building MiTTnet's community site. There are many gaps that need to be filled in order to ensure that Extension colleagues have a broader array of educational products on which they can draw to carry out their outreach education programs.

We are looking for resources that cover a variety of community development related strategies, whether they're opportunities in agriculture, home-based businesses, youth entrepreneurship and mentoring, civic engagement or helping people envision new directions for their communities. Check out the community MiTTnet site at:

<http://mittnet.extension.org/index.php?mode=b&c=1>.

If you have resources that might be a valuable addition to MiTTNET's community site, please contact Bo Beaulieu at the SRDC -- ljb@srdc.msstate.edu. Thanks!!

New Publication Shows Agriculture's Contribution to MS Delta Economy

The importance of agriculture is evident by its contribution to the economy. Using the most recent data available on production and primary agricultural processing activities, professors Garen Evans and Stan Spurlock, Mississippi State University Department of Agricultural Economics, have provided an estimate of agriculture's impact on employment, income, taxes in the Mississippi Delta Region. With this innovative data, the SRDC has created 19 brochures - one for each Delta county and one regional for all counties - the brochures are available at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/opportunities/delta/>.

Deadline for Bonnie Teater Award Approaches This Week

Only a few days left for nominations for the 2010 Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual (not a team) who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development (CD) area. The nomination packet must be postmarked no later than March 19, 2010. See more information at http://srdc.msstate.edu/bonnie_teater/index.html.

SRDC Researcher Roberto Gallardo Featured in Daily Yonder Unemployment Article

For the last two years the country has been in a recession and for most of those months, the rural unemployment rate has been higher than the unemployment rates in exurban or urban counties. The rates in these three sets of counties run parallel. Unemployment in rural, urban and exurban counties rise and fall in unison. But the rural rate tends to be higher in most months. Looking at what can explain this consistent difference, SRDC research associate Roberto Gallardo and Bill Bishop from the Daily Yonder found that education plays a major role in unemployment. Read the full article at <http://www.dailyyonder.com/reason-higher-rural-unemployment-education/2010/02/26/2613>.

SRDC Launches New Turning the Tide on Poverty Site

In support of our Turning the Tide on Poverty project, the SRDC has released a new Web site featuring maps, training materials, resources, and updates on our pilot sites. Fashioned after the successful efforts of the Horizons initiative, Turning the Tide on Poverty gathers a wide range of community members to seek a place-based solution to local poverty. Learn more at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/tide/>.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Assistance Available for Smart Growth Planning for Communities

The Development, Community, and Environment Division (DCED), known as the Smart Growth Program, in EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation is seeking letters of interest from states, regions, and communities that want to develop in ways that reflect the principles of smart growth and meet environmental and other goals. EPA will provide technical assistance to successful applicants as described below. Eligible entities are tribal, local, regional, and state governments, and nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. Selected applicants will receive assistance in the form of a multi-day visit by a team of experts organized by EPA and other national partners to work with local leaders. Team members will be experts in disciplines to be determined by the community's unique needs. The contractor team will likely engage with the applicant to study the context and the specific project and meet with elected officials, business leaders, citizen organizations, and other stakeholder groups. Upon completion, the applicant will receive a final report developed by EPA and its consultant team featuring a compilation of the resources developed throughout the visit, including options for follow-on action. Learn more at http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2010_0128_rfli.html.

SARE Releases Guide to Federal Programs for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, Entrepreneurship, Conservation and Community Development

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education has released a guide for anyone seeking help from federal programs to foster innovative enterprises in agriculture and forestry in the United States. Specifically, the guide addresses program resources in community development; sustainable land management; and value-added and diversified agriculture and forestry. Thus,

it can help farmers, entrepreneurs, community developers, conservationists, and many other individuals, as well as private and public organizations, both for-profit and not-for-profit. The guide can also help USDA and other agency employees become aware and take better advantage of the enormous array of federal programs and resources available to their clients in supporting agricultural and forestry innovations. This edition constitutes the guide's fifth printing and third complete update, incorporating programs from the 2008 Farm Bill and can be found at <http://www.sare.org/publications/ruralplaces.htm>.

Economic Recovery: Lessons Learned From Previous Recessions

The recession beginning in December 2007 led to the largest overall job losses and increases in unemployment rates since the early 1980s. Evidence from the four recessions since 1980 provides a possible road map of the pattern of recovery from the most recent recession. The intensity, duration, and depth of past recessions varied widely across nonmetro and metro areas depending on the recessions' underlying causes, the shifting industrial structure of local economies over time, and the Federal Government's economic policy responses. During the 1980 and 1981-82 recessions, for example, nonmetro areas experienced very high unemployment rates and were generally slower to recover from economic downturns than metro areas. In the 1990-91 and 2001 recessions, nonmetro areas fared somewhat better than metro areas. The most recent recession also appears to have affected metro areas more severely. Find out why nonmetro areas may take longer to recover this time at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/EconomicRecovery.htm>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities

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

Southern Region Urban Webinar: Extension's Value in Metro and Urban Areas

April 7, 2010, 9:30 a.m CT

<http://webconference.tamus.edu/main/tce/index.jhtml?default=true>

**Community Development Society / International Association for Community Development
Joint Annual International Conference**

July 24-28, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

http://comm-dev.org/inside/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=7

73rd Annual RSS Meeting

August 12-15, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

<http://www.ruralsociology.us/>

**Southern Economic Development Council
2010 Annual Conference**

August 14-17, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

<http://www.sedc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=4>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Associate Director, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Southeast Missouri State
University**

View announcement:

<http://www4.semo.edu/humanresources/JOBS/AssocDirector-CIE.htm>

**Professor or Associate Professor of Child and Family Development, College of Family and
Consumer Sciences, University of Georgia**

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/files/jobannounce_031210_profchildfamdev.pdf

Research Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service/USDA

View announcement:

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

Research Social Science Analyst, Economic Research Service/USDA

View announcement:

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