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#### SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST

##### **Sustainable Communities: Online course explores community systems**

As communities struggle with increasingly complex social, economic and environmental issues related to sustainability, they need the expertise of Cooperative Extension now more than ever before. The newest Foundations of Practice course, [Sustainable Communities](#), offers you the tools, skills and knowledge to be the trusted resource community groups need in the emerging dialogs around local foods, energy and natural resources. The eight-week series begins January 19, 2012. To learn more about Foundations of Practice, please visit the program website at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/fop/>.

##### **REMINDER: Stronger Economies Together Phase III applications due Jan. 20**

Applications are now being accepted for Phase III of the Stronger Economies Together (SET) initiative, which strengthens the capacity of rural communities/counties to work together in developing and implementing an economic development blueprint that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of the region. Those states wishing to join the 19 other states and 39 regions currently involved in the program must apply by Jan. 20, 2012. Get the details at [http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/2011\\_12\\_setphaseiii.html](http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/2011_12_setphaseiii.html).

##### **SRDC pilots ReadyCommunity disaster preparedness initiative**

Six communities across the country will serve as pilot sites for ReadyCommunity, a national initiative led by the Southern Rural Development Center to assist rural places with disaster planning and response. Learn more about the program, sponsored by FEMA, the Rural Regional Development Centers and Cooperative Extension, at [http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/2012\\_01\\_readycommunity.html](http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/2012_01_readycommunity.html).

##### **Nominations for 2012 Bonnie Teater Community Development Award due March 2**

This year's Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award will honor an administrator, specialist or agent in the Southern Region who has made significant contributions to the Extension community development for at least 10 years. Named in honor of Ms. Teater, an SRDC staff member for more than 30 years, the award comes with a \$500 stipend. Nomination deadline is Friday, March 2, 2012. Get complete nomination process information at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/bonnieteater/>.

##### **e-BEAT website launches this week-Roberto says it will launch Friday**

Mississippi's Extension Broadband Education and Adoption Team (e-BEAT) this week launched its website, which includes information about the initiative, informational briefs from the recent statewide internet use survey and a variety of resources for individuals and community partners. Check out the site at <http://srdc.msstate.edu/ebeat/>.

#### OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

##### **Unemployment decreased in rural Southeast during 2011**

The unemployment rate in rural America dropped to its lowest level since December of 2008, as rural counties continued to add jobs. Though the Southeast was hit the most during the recession, job growth was particularly strong in the region. According to a Daily Yonder analysis of federal unemployment data, two out of three rural counties have gained jobs since November 2010. View the full article, maps, and tables <http://www.dailyyonder.com/rural-counties-gain-300000-jobs-last-year/2012/01/09/3673>.

##### **HUD Makes \$110 Million Available to Revitalize Communities**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced this week that it is making available \$110 million in grants to transform public and assisted housing and to revitalize communities. Application are due in April, with the awards coming in December. Find out more at [http://www.raconline.org/news/details.php?news\\_id=17149](http://www.raconline.org/news/details.php?news_id=17149).

## CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

### Foundations of Practice - Level 3 Training

*Sustainable Communities eight-week webinar series*  
Thursdays, Jan. 19-March 8, 2012  
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/fop/uptrain.html>

### 11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

*Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities*  
Feb. 2-4, 2012  
San Diego, Calif.  
<http://www.newpartners.org/>

### 8th Annual Tri-State Diversity Conference

*Diverse Communities – Common Unity*  
Feb. 16 - 17, 2012  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/tristatediversityconference/>

### 2012 Under One Roof Regional Housing Conference

*Mission Possible: Affordable Housing*  
Feb. 23, 2012  
Fort Valley, Ga.  
[Download brochure](#)

### Community Development Society Annual International Conference

July 21-25, 2012  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
<http://www.comm-dev.org/>

### National Small Farm Conference

Sept. 18-20, 2012  
Memphis, Tenn.  
[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/ag\\_systems/in\\_focus/smallfarms\\_if\\_conferences.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/in_focus/smallfarms_if_conferences.html)  
Call for Abstracts Deadline: Feb. 29, 2012 [Download complete information](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Assistant/Associate Extension Professor-Agricultural Marketing and Agribusiness, Mississippi State University

View announcement for posting number 6243  
<https://www.jobs.msstate.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1318281270934>

### Assistant/Associate Extension Professor- Health Education Specialist, Mississippi State University

View announcement for posting number 6237  
<https://www.jobs.msstate.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1318281270934>

### Assistant Extension Professor-Community Economic Development, Mississippi State University

View announcement for posting number 6251  
<https://www.jobs.msstate.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1316009484271>

### Assistant Extension Professor-Planning and Evaluation, Mississippi State University (2 positions)

View announcement for posting number 6145  
<https://www.jobs.msstate.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1316009484271>

### Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Georgia

<http://www.fcs.uga.edu/college/jobs.html>

### Vice Chancellor for Development, University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture

<https://webapps.dii.utk.edu/UTJobList/ListJobFamilies.aspx>

## SUBMIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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