



Items of Interest

SRDC in Search for a New Director

The search for a Director for the Southern Rural Development Center continues. This is a 12-month, tenured faculty appointment in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The faculty member in this position serves as Director of the Southern Rural Development Center. As one of four regional centers, the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) works with 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands to initiate, foster, and facilitate regional research and education efforts that contribute to an increased quality of life for residents of the Southern region. The SRDC is partially federally funded and hosted by Mississippi State University.

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Stronger Economies Together Heading into Phase V

Stronger Economies Together (SET) celebrates its fifth year by entering into Phase V. The program is now in place in 30 states with the addition of regions in Iowa and North Dakota. Phase V also includes regions located in Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Virginia.

SET is an initiative that enables communities in rural America to work together to develop an economic development blueprint that strategically builds on the current and emerging strengths of their region. Launched in 2010 by USDA Rural Development and the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers and their land-grant university partners, SET has provided the specialized training and technical assistance to help rural areas compete in the global job market by pooling their resources across county boundaries.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SRDC Partnering with University of Kentucky and RCPNC Announce Funding Opportunity for Organizations Interested in Child Nutrition Programs

In partnership with the Southern Rural Development Center, the Rural Child Poverty Nutrition Center (RCPNC) at the University of Kentucky is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for organizations interested in improving the coordination of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and

Nutrition Service (FNS) Child Nutrition programs and other nutrition assistance programs. The goal in improving coordination is to increase participation in these programs.

Government or non-profit organizations at the state or local (city or county) level located in in 324 persistently poor counties in 15 states may apply for up to \$100,000 in grant funding. Special consideration will be given to areas with large Native American populations and Tribal districts. A list of eligible counties is at WWW.RCPNC.ORG.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SRDC Partnering with University of Vermont on Research on Health Insurance and Economic Development in the Agriculture Sector

The University of Vermont was awarded a four-year, \$500,000 USDA Rural Communities and Regional Development grant to investigate how health insurance options and health care reforms impact the farm and ranch population in the United States.

This grant is part of a \$14 million USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture initiative to increase prosperity in rural America. Through research led by the University of Vermont with help from SRDC, and the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, the study will focus on promoting rural community development, economic growth, and sustainability.

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Creating Opportunity and Prosperity through Strengthening Rural-Urban Connections

From the National Association of Development Organizations

Metropolitan and rural America are highly connected and interdependent. To succeed, metropolitan America needs a healthy and sustainable rural economy and culture, and in turn rural America needs vibrant, well-functioning cities and suburbs to thrive and flourish. Yet, the prevailing national narrative pits urban versus rural for investments and public resources. A new issue brief from the NADO Research Foundation describes some ways in which regional development organizations and other regional entities are recognizing the importance of connecting rural regions and urban centers

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Why Some Return Home to Rural America and Why It Matters

Continued population loss in rural communities is caused as much by low in-migration as by high out-migration; in remote rural communities lacking natural amenities, return migrants make up a large share of total in-migration. Return migrants potentially play a critical role in rural areas in slowing population loss, rejuvenating the population base, and generating jobs.

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Grant Connections

USDA Announces Available Funding for Farm Bill Broadband Loan Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the availability of loans to build broadband in rural areas, along with changes to the program required by the 2014 Farm Bill.

"USDA is committed to providing broadband to rural areas," Vilsack said. "Broadband is as vital as electricity was 80 years ago. Since 2009, USDA investments have delivered broadband service to 1.5 million households, businesses, schools, libraries and community facilities. But our work is not done. With program improvements and available funding made possible by the Farm Bill, we can continue our work to make broadband more accessible to those who live and work in rural areas."

[LEARN MORE](#)

Rural Community Development Initiative: Department of Agriculture Utilities Programs

Qualified private, nonprofit and public including tribal intermediary organizations proposing to carry out financial and technical assistance programs will be eligible to receive the funding. The intermediary will be required to provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the RCDI grant. The respective minimum and maximum grant amount per intermediary is \$50,000 and \$250,000. The intermediary must provide a program of financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development that will support the community.

[LEARN MORE](#)

National Service and Civic Engagement Research Competition

This research competition's goal is to increase the nation's understanding and knowledge about the importance and potential of national and community service, volunteering, and civic engagement in America. We are seeking applications to design and implement research studies that build on existing research in the field, address gaps in knowledge, and provide new ideas and methodological approaches to the study of national service and civic engagement. [LEARN MORE](#)

New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE)

The purpose of the NTAE Program is to increase the capacity of the Cooperative Extension System (CES) to adopt new and innovative technology applications for delivering science-based educational resources from land-grant and other partner institutions about matters of high importance to the general public. Applications are being solicited for the NTAE to deliver state of the art technology and software applications, high quality leaders and staff, training for an exceptional CES workforce, legally binding contractual and financial instruments, and comprehensive evaluation, communications, and marketing activities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Conferences, Workshops, Trainings

2015 National Extension Tourism Conference

October 27-29, 2015

Join us for the 2015 National Extension Tourism Conference: Coast to Coast Tourism Matters in Galveston, Texas at Moody Gardens Hotel Spa & Convention Center. At the conference you will hear from top professionals, participate in interactive tourism presentations and learn about current tourism development best practices. You will meet people from across the nation and learn what extension is doing for local communities and businesses. Field experience tours of local tourism destinations included. The National Extension Tourism (NET) Conference Program Committee invites proposals for the 2015 NET Conference. The committee encourages all proposal submitters to “connect” their work in tourism and recreation development to the conference’s theme Coast to Coast Tourism Matters.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CALL FOR PROPOSALS](#)

Extension Climate Science Conference: Bozeman, Montana

December 8-10, 2015

The 2015 Extension Climate Science Conference will be December 8-10, 2015 in Bozeman, MT at the Montana State University Student Union Building (SUB). You'll learn about: Climate Science Basics, Montana and Regional Climate Trends, Stakeholder Perspectives, Tools and Resources for Extension Programming, Effective Communication Techniques, and Program-focused Discussions and Opportunities to Collaborate.

Please join our list for updates: EXTENSIONCLIMATESCIENCE@MONTANA.EDU

[LEARN MORE](#)

New Partners for Smart Growth: Portland, Oregon

February 11-13, 2016

The New Partners Conference is heading back to the West Coast – Portland – after stops in America’s Heartland, the Rockies and the Chesapeake Bay over the past three years. The nation’s largest smart growth and sustainability event, the theme for New Partners 2016 is “Practical Tools and Innovative Strategies for Creating Great Communities,” underscoring this year’s stronger emphasis on implementation. The program will feature tools, strategies, focused training and new technologies that will help communities NOW.

[LEARN MORE](#)

12th Annual Tri-State Diversity Conference

February 18-19, 2016

The Tri-State Diversity Conference is hosted by four land grant universities from Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. It is designed for administrators, faculty, and staff from Cooperative Extension, research, and academic programs; private and public university representatives; K-12 educators; community outreach leaders; health and social services professionals; employers and supervisors; human resource staff; elected and appointed officials; and all others wanting to expand diversity efforts and increase cultural understanding in their communities and workplaces.

Proposals for presentations are being invited for the 2016 conference on best practices, curriculum models, research, professional development training, and success stories for implementing diversity initiatives in a variety of settings as it relates to this year’s conference theme, “A Healthy Perspective on Diversity-Progress,

Partnerships, and Possibilities.” The Planning Sub-Committee is seeking proposals for beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of diversity learning. These proposals are peer-reviewed and you will be notified by August 1, 2015 if your presentation has been selected for presentation at the 2016 conference.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Extension Sustainability Summit 2016: Portland, OR

April 5 – 7, 2016

Held for the first time in 2013, this popular event promises an exciting two-day Summit addressing sustainability and Cooperative Extension's outreach activities and opportunities. Plus field trips! And all the local foods and sustainably-created fun the Rose City has to offer!

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Job Opportunities

Workforce & Community Development Extension Specialist

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) at Auburn University is seeking candidates for the position of Workforce and Community Development Extension Specialist. The position is a member of the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) and reports to the ECDI Director. ECDI is a joint initiative of ACES and Auburn University (AU) Outreach. The position has statewide responsibility to provide workforce and community development programs to Alabama residents. The specialist is an effective leader and team player who will integrate programming objectives with current Extension and ECDI personnel and who will foster team collaborations.

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Webinars

Unequal Treatment: Disparities in Access, Quality and Care

August 18, 2015, 1 p.m

[LEARN MORE](#)

No Safety, No Health: A Conversation About Race, Place and Preventing Violence

August 18, 2015, 1 p.m.

Racism: The Silent Partner in High School Dropout and Health Disparities

September 1, 2015, 1 p.m.

Archived Webinars

Skillful Facilitation in Natural Resources

June 16, 2015, 1 p.m.

Naming and Addressing Racism: A Primer

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Community Health Needs Assessments in Rural Communities using Principles of Community Based Participatory Research

June 9, 2015

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Community Health Needs Assessments in Rural Communities using Principles of Community Based Participatory Research

June 9, 2015

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Strategies for Developing Successful CRED Extension Programs: Perspectives of a Program Leader

June 15, 2015

[LEARN MORE](#)

Broadband Inventories and Mapping

March 11, 2015

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Webinar: HEARTH Act

February 11, 2015

[LEARN MORE.](#)

Calculating What to Save for Retirement

February 3, 2015

[LEARN MORE.](#)

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.