

SRDC Plan of Work 2023



Broad reaching structural efforts:

- Initiate 1890 Fellow
- Explore cross-program reporting opportunities (i.e., health)
- Develop a publication plan for the differing program areas
- Design a method to connect research to Extension more completely (Identifying researchers; communication between Extension & research; etc.)

Developing Pathways to Resilient Communities

- **Local & Regional Food Systems, SERA-47** – Facilitate work on the new 5-year plan
 - Support annual meeting
 - Monitor future opportunities for related issues
- **Heirs' Property**
 - Support regional Extension and research working groups toward SERA development
 - Coordinate AFRI project - *The Racial Wealth Gap, Persistent Poverty, and Heirs' Property: Analysis, Connections, Solutions*
 - Special issue of the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*
 - Host up to three train-the-trainer workshops in cooperation with the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center (six workshops over a 2-year period)
- **Digital Access and Literacy (Broadband)**
 - Facilitate work of the National Digital Education Extension Team (NDEET) alongside the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) Program Action Team (curriculum development, metrics identification, research)
 - Collaborate with 1890 system to build capacity to aid underserved communities in digital access with recently funded AFRI grant
 - *Issue Briefs* series
- **Coming Together for Racial Understanding**
 - Support the 32 states that have trained Coming Together state teams
 - Build capacity for dialogues through additional training
 - Evaluate impacts and lessons learned – research briefs
 - Engage with NIFA on co-learning
 - Strengthen DEI efforts in the South LGU System – Synthesis of the Oct. 25-26, 2022 convening
 - Issue briefs (4)
- **Support the ECOP DEI Program Action Team**
- **Supporting Healthy Communities Across the Life Course (Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging)**
 - Mentorship to pilot grantees and early career scholars
 - Pursue collaborative publication options
 - Proposal writing workshop for research collaboration
 - Work with the Rural Population Research Network (W4001/5001) multi-state group to organize a policy symposium

Building Strategic Partners

- **CREATE BRIDGES** - Continue efforts with the six pilot states to explore ways to strengthen the retail economic sector in rural places. Issue briefs to be developed.
- **Southern Region Program Leadership Network (PLN)** - Support the work of PLN along with helping support the Program Leadership Committee's efforts to plan for the annual joint meeting
- **Southern Region Community Resource Development (CRD) Indicators** - Facilitate gathering and reporting of southern region CRD indicators released in August
- Involvement with the **Delta Scholars/Delta Directions** leadership initiative for undergraduates (summer program held in June in the Delta, follow-up Boston in Nov.)
- **Lead and Drinking Water Initiative** with National Sea Grant Law Center and Univ. of MS School of Pharmacy in collaboration with Delta Scholars/Delta Directions partners (also connects with previous SRDC program of work item)

Mobilizing Resources around Emerging Issues and Opportunities

- **Grant Writing Skills:** Expansion of curricula to include writing teams and LGU-community partner-student teams with support from Extension Foundation/USDA-NIFA New Technology for Ag Extension (NTAE) program
- **Recreation Economy:**
 - National Extension Tourism – identify Southern members
 - Expand understanding of the national partnership efforts (Sarah Rocker – USDA NIFA, Rural Development, Forest Service)
 - View through a lens of cultural tourism in addition to natural resources
- **Economic Climate Resilience**
 - National Extension Climate Initiative – identify Southern members
 - Expand understanding of the national partnership efforts
 - Identify southern centric indicators of vulnerability – explore opportunities to update/revisit
 - Ensure the community development perspective is considered

SRDC Website: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/>

Dr. John Green, Director, john.green@msstate.edu