



2018 CES Capital Quest Survey Summary

Results as of 8/6/2018

12 of 16 Participants responded

Executive Summary - Participants unanimously recommend that ECOP invest in future opportunities like CES Capital Quest, May 29-30, 2018. The event was designed for newly appointed Extension Directors and Administrators of the BAA Cooperative Extension Section. The Quest experience was originated to introduce leaders to key partners located in the nation's capital city and provide opportunities for more robust engagement, collaboration, acquisition, and accomplishment. Participants unanimously commit help plan future offerings. The opportunity to engage and learn from colleagues seemed nearly as important as doing so with NIFA liaison and DC partners. More preparation by participants is recommended and modification to the format of the sessions (more interactive/less passive) is noted. NIFA Liaisons to ECOP are very interested in making this possible.

Survey Questions: Pages 1-4

Summary of onsite debriefing from May 30: Page 5

Last 4 pages is the summary of the event.

What length of time seems practical and effective for the next CES Capital Quest?

3 Begin at 2 or 3 PM on first day and full day on second

2 1 ½ days

5 No change, 2 half days

1 2 full days

Other: 1.5 days allows for more return on the travel cost investment. If you are adding content or discussion time I suggest running until 3:00 on day 2.

Do you recommend the investment by ECOP to offer this program in the future?

12 -Yes

0 -No

Would you be willing to help with planning a future Capital Quest experience?

12 -Yes

0 -No

Which of the following better positions you to learn from other participants of CES Capital Quest for greater leadership networking and other opportunities?

9 Group dining opportunity

8 Staying at the same DC hotel

6 Organized reception

4 More time with NIFA and DC Partners than what was provided

3 Frequent breaks of 15 minutes

2 Longer breaks of 20 minutes or more

Other: Group Discussion on challenges facing new director. Group exercises. We were in lecture mode the whole time. I talked to people I knew and didn't talk to others.

Please rate your experience at NIFA on May 29 on a 5 star scale.

6 ★★★★★
3 ★★★
2 ★★★★★
1 ★★
0 ★

Average: 3.75

Which of the following topics/presentations better positions you with NIFA for greater involvement and opportunity? (Check all that apply or add other ideas)

9 Competitive funding opportunities
8 Dialogue with USDA Director's Office
8 Networking break with NIFA Liaisons
8 State liaison program
5 Dialogue with USDA Office of the Chief Scientist
4 Capacity Funding & Awards Management
2 ezFedGrants

Other: Perhaps meet with Cornerstone. My State Liaison was not there so I do have that experience. It seems like it would help. What about other partners or potential

Please rate your overall experience with the 3 DC Partners at APLU on May 30 on a 5 star scale.

6 ★★★★★
3 ★★★
2 ★★★★★
1 ★★
0 ★

Average: 3.75

What was the most important thing learned from the APLU VP, Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources that better positions you for greater involvement and opportunity?

To become a better partner and more involved in committees. This was not a very helpful presentation. My one take away is that we as Directors need to push for accountability on investments related to lobbying, marketing, etc. This is a member organization and hence members need to weigh in and engage. APLU meeting would have been much better if the presentation had focused on explaining what APLU does and how they interact with the LGU System and Extension. Better understanding of APLU as a membership and leadership organization. Different program offerings of Rural Development. As I continue to engage in these meetings, my understanding of APLU structure, personnel and opportunities to engage expands considerably. It raised questions that I did not know that I did not understand. Now, at least I know what I am ignorant of. I was disappointed in this section. I liked that I can now put names and faces together, but I would have liked to know how I can be involved in various aspects of APLU -- do I just wait until someone asks...? It was a very good overview and I can see how the structure works together and for us in the universities. Importance on continuing to network and open discussions on challenges/opportunities. That session left something to be desired. Opportunities for linkages between the sections.

Which of the following better positions you with USDA Rural Development for greater involvement and opportunity? (Check all that apply or add ideas)

- 10 Asking questions and making requests of Rural Development Service Administrators.
 - 10 Understanding the focus on Infrastructure, Partnerships and Innovation (IPI).
 - 5 Listening to examples of lending and other resource opportunities for rural communities.
 - 1 Receiving the list of State Directors.
- Other: It would be good to know what they see as successful examples of collaboration with LGU and RD.

Which of the following better positions you with National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) for greater involvement and opportunity? (Check all that apply or add ideas)

- 9 Listening to examples of collaboration and other resource opportunities for agriculture
 - 7 Asking questions and making requests of NASDA and State Departments of Agriculture Leaders
 - 5 Understanding the NASDA structure and purpose
- Other: I have a background with ag and this group.

Additional comments

I spent most of the NIFA break visiting with my state liaison so there was little time to learn more from the NPLs. The parade of NPLs was a little overwhelming. I think even a few more minutes or a brief handout with bullets listing the subject matter and/or competitive grant areas linked to each would be helpful. Having recently left Ag Econ Extension, I would have been interested in finding out who is the NPL to connect with the still active regional committees. I'm not sure they know each other exists. More time for networking with other participants would also be beneficial. The session with NIFA was too superficial and moved too fast to glean and real useful information. Great job! First time programs can be tricky! It was worth my time and travel to be there! Excellent job, I especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet new colleagues from across the country. The networking opportunities are always the highlight. For NIFA - perhaps we prepare, in advance, some topics we would like to discuss with them so that it is more of a 2-way session. My other idea is that we consider this subset of the Ext. Dir. as a cohort that meets periodically with clear projects (i.e. influencing NIFA's thoughts on a proposal for budgets) outlined for the group/cohort to work on.

**CES Capital Quest
May 30, 2018 – Debrief Session**

NIFA Meetings on 5/29:

- Overall response that the face-to-face meetings were extremely valuable for building relationships although not much new information was learned
- Time with NIFA finance team not helpful
- Desire to have a conversation about 2020 program budgeting
- Keep meetings at program level
- Other questions arose about how Extension can be more responsive to NIFA, tell our story and NIFA story more effectively

APLU/CFERR Overview:

- Overall session did not answer group's questions on APLU organization, role, and activities and how Extension fits into APLU's various groups (BAC)
- Request to add APLU/CFERR/BAA organization briefing to the orientation at NEDA Monday afternoon session
- Suggestion to include a brief summary of ECOP meetings in the Monday Minute
- Request for earlier distribution of APLU meeting agendas

Other:

- Request for a breakdown of where/how assessments are distributed
- Need to address the appropriations process (why did the 1890 amount remain flat, what can be done in the future)
- Suggestion to rethink advocacy, specifically working with Cornerstone and kglobal
- Question as to what Cornerstone has accomplished to increase extension's federal budget
- Need a business/advocacy plan, can't wait for CARET meeting to develop
- Some attendees stated that 1-2 day turnaround for "calls to action" were too quick for them to respond
- Discussion on bringing in individual university's lobbying professionals to promote extension agenda
- Suggestion to engage with APLU's CGA group to engage those people on campuses