MESSAGE FROM: Doug Steele, Vice President

During the pandemic with more time "in the office" I have developed a new reference list of online resources about successfully leading organizations through times of change. One of my go-to references is the Center for Creative Leadership. One of the most recent postings was titled "To Succeed, Leaders Must Embrace Disruption" and used the military term VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) as shorthand for describing just this kind of difficult environment. Most business models of the past will not carry your organization into the future. For organizations to survive and thrive, their leaders must be adept at adopting new roles, crafting new identities, and finding new meaning for themselves and those they lead. The 3 shifts needed, as outlined in their article, are: rethink your role, adopt new identities, and create new meanings. I’m not proposing that disruption needs to be embraced, but rather understood if we are to keep fulfilling the mission of public and land-grant universities. The complete article can be found [here](#).

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**UPDATES ON VIRTUAL MEETING SCHEDULES**

**VIRTUAL:** New Administrator Orientation, February 8-10, 2:30-5:00 PM EST each day.
This event is intended for individuals on the Board on Agriculture Assembly and their supporting administrators or faculty, who have entered an administrative position since 2019; USDA-NIFA personnel who are interested; and any others who would like to learn more about APLU, the Land-Grant University System, the BAA, and USDA. Information presented will be particularly useful to administrative heads, directors, associate/assistant directors, and USDA-NIFA national program leaders and administrators. This event has a registration fee of $25.00 which will cover the sessions for all three days. Please register here: https://bit.ly/3AQbwVH

VIRTUAL: Joint CARET/AHS Orientation Webinar, February 18, 2 PM EST

Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) and the Administrative Heads Section (AHS) are putting on a webinar “Pre-meeting Training: All about the Request” for CARET and AHS members. Please consider registering today. Registration link for AHS/CARET orientation webinar is at: “Teamwork: Making the Request”

VIRTUAL: Joint CARET/AHS Annual Spring Meeting, March 6-9

On behalf of the 2022 CARET/AHS Joint Planning Meeting Committee, you are invited to participate in the Spring Meeting of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) and the Administrative Heads Section (AHS) of the Association of Public & Land-grant Universities. The theme of the meeting is "Land-grant University Relevance - Solving Problems, Connecting for Solutions." After Monday’s events, in coordination with university administration, CARET/AHS will meet with federal decision-makers to advance the vision and mission of the land-grant university system. Event details and registration are here: 2022 Joint CARET/AHS Annual Spring Meeting

VIRTUAL: Joint BoHS/CAFCS Spring Meeting, SAVE THE DATE: March 1-4

The Board on Human Sciences (BoHS) and the Council of Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) invite their members to the 2022 Joint BoHS/CAFCS Spring Conference, with the theme "Impacts for Today, Solutions for Tomorrow." The keynote presentations and program sessions will provide many opportunities for interaction. In addition to the presentations on tackling administrative challenges, other conference topics include areas of
primary concern to the Human Sciences and our role in promoting innovative, impactful research and teaching models that can be adopted at each of our institutions. The complete agenda and registration link will be available early next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JEAN-MARIE PELTIER FUND

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources President’s Advisory Commission at the University of California has established the Jean-Mari Peltier Endowment on UC ANC Strategic Priorities. Jean-Mari was a tireless supporter of California agriculture and farmers, she advocated for UC ANR as a member of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET), and served as the CARET Secretary. If you would like to make a donation, we welcome you to do so here, select the UC ANR logo, and dropdown to the “Jean-Mari Peltier Endowment Fund.” Thank you for honoring Jean-Mari Peltier’s legacy.

UPCOMING POLICY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO “RULES OF OPERATIONS”

The FANR office will be reaching out to voting members of the Policy Board of Directors in the coming weeks regarding a proposed amendment to the Board on Agriculture Assembly’s (BAA) “Rules of Operations.” The amendment would transition the Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) from an ad-hoc to a standing committee of the BAA. The CMC believes that a standing committee structure is important for the continued growth and long-term support of communications and marketing efforts across all BAA councils, sections, and committees.

USDA NIFA REQUESTS INPUT ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON RESEARCH/EXTENSION/EDUCATION
On January 20, USDA NIFA hosted a webinar to solicit public input to inform development of the agency’s climate adaptation plan, as required in E.O. 14008. NIFA is inviting stakeholder input until **February 4 at 5 PM EST**. Please find notes from the event [here](#). Members of the APLU’s The Council on Governmental Affairs (CGA) may consider working with their colleges of agriculture/forestry or related administration officials to develop input. APLU would appreciate members sharing their feedback and submissions to help inform the Board on Agricultural Assembly’s comments. Please contact Caron Gala with questions, comments, or to share your comment letters.

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**USAID BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES**

LASER PULSE is pleased to announce the Call for Concept Notes for USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. They seek Concept Notes (CNs) from multidisciplinary teams of researchers and development professionals or individual experts, to undertake a resilience, food, and nutrition security Desk Review and Market Study; a Political Economy Analysis and a secondary data analysis to inform the design strategies and approaches of future multi-year Resilience Food Security Activities in USAID Resilience Focus Countries. Submission for Concept Notes are due by **February 18 at 5 PM EST**. If you are interested, please go [here](#) to download the full Call for CN and associated materials. Contact for questions: Dr. Priyanka Brunese (pshah@purdue.edu)

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**INFORMATIONAL**

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**National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Seeks Qualified Candidates**

NIFA's Director, Dr. Carrie L. Castille, has requested that the current listing of NIFA position openings and vacancies be shared with the national system of land-grant universities and
related institutions. There are a number of positions, both scientific and support, that are now advertised for application. Each posting may be seeking a number of individuals to fill vacancies. Please distribute this information within your networks.

Please go to the NIFA Career Opportunities page for a current listing of career opportunities.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture | (NIFA) Calendar

See events and application deadlines here: National Institute of Food and Agriculture | (usda.gov)

https://nifa.usda.gov/calendar

APLU Member Job Postings

APLU has a job board on which member institutions may list available positions for which they are recruiting.

FOCUS is a recurring update from the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources office of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to provided timely, relevant information and actions items to the membership of the Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources (CFERR) and its member boards and sections.

If you know of someone who is not receiving or should be receiving our newsletter, please forward this newsletter to them and ask them to contact Suzette Robinson srobinson@aplu.org with their name, address, and contact information.

Doug