It's time to turn the page on your calendar and welcome 2022; a new year is a new beginning. And while we move into the new year with several of the same concerns of last year (uncertainty with the pandemic, partisan politics, economic outlook, and global discord), there is always a sense of hope for the future. As the new year begins, we feel that we need to make changes in our life, start on a new path, do new things, and say goodbye to old habits, problems, and difficulties. Often, we start making new plans and new resolutions. We might feel elated, inspired, and hopeful, but sometimes also apprehensive. The question to ask ourselves is whether we will continue to seek out new opportunities or be stagnated by the challenges of today. As for me, let's charge forward with a renewed passion and enthusiasm for accomplishing our mission.

"Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress." – Charles Kettering

MARCH CONFERENCE UPDATE

Over the course of the last few weeks, we have continually evaluated hosting in-person meetings that are currently scheduled for the beginning of March. We are making decisions based on the following criteria:

- Continued health and safety concerns due to COVID-19 and variants
- Travel disruptions
• Safe social distancing is a challenge in public settings
• Very limited access to Capitol Hill offices, committees and subcommittees
• Many universities currently have travel restrictions in place for faculty and staff
• Uncertainty as to in-person status of meeting speakers, panelists, and external sponsors

We are currently negotiating with the hotel to extend our contracts into 2023 and 2024. At this time, we are proceeding with plans to move the Board on Human Sciences (BoHS), Academic Programs Section (APS) and Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET)/Administrative Heads Section (AHS) to virtual formats. More information will be available next week after our conversations with the hotel. For now, please don’t proceed with making travel, lodging or registration until more details are forthcoming next week.

We are disappointed we may not be able to meet in-person, but need to make the best decisions possible based on the information available.

RESPONSE / AWARENESS

The FANR team would like to thank our new and continuing Chairs for their service on CFERR’s boards, sections, and committees. We are grateful for your leadership, collaboration, and dedication.

**Commission on Food, Environment, & Renewable Resources (CFERR)**

**Executive Committee:** Noelle Cockett, President, Utah State University.

**Board on Agriculture Assembly**

**Policy Board of Directors:** Thomas Coon, Vice President, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University.

**Academic Programs Section (APS):** Joseph (Joe) Sullivan, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, University of Maryland, College Park.

**Administrative Heads Section (AHS):** J. Scott Angle, Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP): Chris Pritsos, Director, Ag Experiment Station, Associate Dean of Research, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno.

Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP): Wendy Powers, Associate Vice President, University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

International Agriculture Section Executive Leadership Committee (ICOP): John Vreyens, Director of Extension Global Initiatives, University of Minnesota Extension.

Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET): J. Robert Frazee, University of Maryland at College Park.

Non-land-grant Agriculture and Renewable Resources Universities (President): Brian Parr, Assistant Dean, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University.

Committees

Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC): Paul Patterson, Dean, College of Agriculture and Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University.

Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP): Marshall Stewart, Vice Chancellor for Extension And Engagement & UM System Chief Engagement Officer, University of Missouri.

Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC): Jean-Francois Meullenet, Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research and Director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas.

Board on Human Sciences: Jana Hawley, Dean and Professor, College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism, University of North Texas.

Board on Natural Resources: Lisette Waits, Distinguished Professor, Department Head Fish and Wildlife Sciences, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho and Linda Nagel, Professor and Department Head, Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University.

Board on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Climate: John Kelly, President, Florida Atlantic University.

Board on Veterinary Medicine: Caroline Henry, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri.
REGISTER FOR THE 2022 NEW ADMINISTRATOR ORIENTATION

Feb 8, 2022 - Feb 10, 2022

APLU’s Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources invites you to register for the 2022 New Administrator Orientation taking place virtually from February 8-10 from 2:30-5:00pm 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.

Register today at 2022 New Administrator Orientation. For questions, please contact Wendy Fink at wfink@aplu.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

WELCOME LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES, LLC

The Board on Agriculture Assembly and FANR office welcomes Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC as our new advocacy partner.

FANR awarded a three-year advocacy contract to Lewis-Burke in support of the BAA and the Board of Human Sciences. Lewis-Burke is a Washington, DC-based federal relations consulting and lobbying firm with a successful 29-year track record in advocacy on behalf of colleges and universities. The team has extensive experience with House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations as well as the Farm Bill.

Lewis-Burke will work in close coordination with FANR to engage with members of Congress, authorizing committees, and staff responsible for funding agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences. The firm will also advocate for increased funding levels for agricultural research, teaching, and Extension in USDA and other federal agencies.
APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE FOOD SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE’S PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted for the eighteenth cohort in the Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) starting in the fall of 2022.

FSLI offers executive leadership development to upper-level leaders in higher education, government, and industry to prepare them to meet the leadership challenges and opportunities of the future. The two-year FSLI experience includes three week-long residential sessions, personal leadership coaching, mentoring, a personal development plan, distance learning activities, and an individual leadership project. The FSLI is designed for experienced leaders. Fellows include leaders from various sectors, including education, industry, and government. Participant titles include program or division directors, provosts/vice presidents, experienced department heads/chairs, deans and associate deans, and others working in leadership of administrative capacities.

More information can be found at www.fsli.org. The application process is being done all online. See the “Apply” section of the website. Follow them on Linkedin at: https://www.linkedin.com/company/fsli.

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2022 JOINT CARET/AHS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Mar 6, 2022 - Mar 9, 2022

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.

At the meeting, land-grant university advocates will join together to discuss:

- Research, Extension, and Education priorities that will secure agriculture, food, and natural resource innovations.
- The economic returns from federal investments in agricultural R&D and the Cooperative Extension System.
- Key community outcomes from our land-grant university system.
More information will be available next week after our conversations with the hotel. Please don’t proceed with making travel, lodging or registration until more details are forthcoming next week.

APLU’s 2021 Annual Report is now available here: Annual Report (aplu.org)

INFORMATIONAL

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. Not all positions will be located in the Kansas City area and 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.

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FOCUS is a recurring update from the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources office of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to provide 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.

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Doug

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