



FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

APLU's Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) Update

FROM DOUG'S DESK

Doug Steele, Vice President

The recent 4th of July weekend is a significant holiday for many Americans because of the cherished freedoms we enjoy today. Through parades, cook outs, and fireworks America commemorates its heroes and pays them tribute. Even though it seems that as a country we are struggling with a lack of unity and plenty of civil discourse, may the reflection of this day be a new beginning of peace, happiness, and prosperity. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming [Joint Committees on Organization and Policy \(COPs\) summer meeting](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advocacy Updates from Lewis-Burke Associates

As we head further into summer, there are several developments in agricultural policy of note. The most prominent issues in the last three months have been (1) the advancement of the House Agriculture Appropriations Bill, (2) the nomination and confirmation of Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young as the new Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at USDA (3) the Farm Bill Senate Arkansas Field Hearing, and (4) the House Agriculture Climate Hearing. For the full update, please see [here](#).

Celebrate the 160th Anniversary of the Morrill Act

In the words of Peter McPherson, APLU President, *“When President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law in 1862 to establish land-grant universities, our nation took an important step toward ensuring access to higher education was no longer just reserved for the elite. The law’s mission was to create institutions of higher education that would educate America’s citizenry, unlock discoveries that would transform its communities, and propel the country into a world leader in education and innovation.”* Source: [APLU’s First Draft](#), 2015

Listening Session Invitation: White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

**Tuesday, July 12, 2022
2:00 - 3:30 PM ET**

APLU’s Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) and Board on Human Sciences (BoHS) invite you to participate in a virtual listening session to gather your input into an upcoming [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) to be held this September. The goal of the conference is to kick off a national effort to "end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030, so that fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension." Details and registration are [here](#).

Congratulations to APLU’s Academic Programs Section 2022 Spring Winners of Innovative Teaching Awards

APLU’s Board on Agriculture Assembly’s Academic Programs Section (APS) named winners of its 2022 Spring [Innovative Teaching Awards](#). In their ninth year, the biannual awards are intended to bolster innovation in the post-secondary teaching of agriculture and related fields. Awardees share up to \$5,000 per project, plus \$2,000 in matching funds. The awards program encourages:

- New faculty to expand their scholarship of teaching and learning by creating projects with more senior faculty from their own and other institutions.
- Adoption of innovative teaching and learning experiences for students.
- Institutional collaboration that expands the impact of creative projects to more institutions and students.
- Motivation to seek additional funding for the scholarship of teaching and learning from additional sources.

“This may be the junior faculty’s first monetary award which, when combined with the mentoring by working with senior faculty on the project, boost their abilities as both a teacher and a researcher,” said Wendy Fink, Executive Director of APS. The winners are:

Developing Cultural Competency by Embedding Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) in an Animal Science Course

Sushil Paudyal and Matthew Taylor, Texas A&M University, and Krishna Kaphle, Tribhuvan University

A Foundational DEI Curriculum for Exploration of the Environmental Conservation Field

Nia Morales, University of Florida, Erica Zavaleta and Abraham Borker, University of California Santa Cruz

Got Virtual Milk? Learning About Dairy Cow Management Through Immersive Learning Technology

Adrian Barragan, Justin Brown, and Jaime Garcia, Pennsylvania State University

Seeking Nominations for the 2022 William Henry Hatch Lecture

Lecture to be presented at the APLU Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, November 6-8, 2022.

USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and APLU are seeking nominations for the prestigious Hatch Lecture. The lecture commemorates the efforts of William H. Hatch, Congressman from Missouri who championed the Agricultural Experiment Station Founding Bill that became law in 1887 and to celebrate the accomplishments of the Experiment Station System which the Hatch Act created.

We seek an insightful topic and a dynamic speaker to provoke discussion among meeting participants and present a formal lecture. We encourage you to recommend your land-grant university colleagues as well as other stakeholders, foundations, public interest groups, or international organizations. Please submit your proposed topic and/or presenter by July 29, 2022. Details are [here](#).

Seeking Nominations for the Board on Human Sciences Awards

Awards to be presented at APLU’s Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 6-8, 2022.

The APLU Annual Meeting is a gathering of higher education leaders from across North America, with the goal to share best practices and strategies; strengthen community amongst public and land-grant universities; and make lasting connections with colleagues.

BoHS member institutions are eligible to nominate leaders in the human sciences for the awards. Each award has specific criteria for eligibility. BoHS will provide travel expenses and appropriate recognition. Learn more about [the awards](#) and criteria for eligibility on the links below.

All award materials should be submitted to: Kim Scotto, BoHS Associate (bohs@aplu.org), by **July 29, 2022**.

- [Ellen Swallow Richards Public Service Award](#)
- [Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [Outstanding Engagement Award](#)
- [Undergraduate Research Mentor Award](#)

Forbes Op-Ed - APLU President Peter McPherson: 50 Years On, Pell Grants Have Transformed the Lives of Millions of Students

"Fifty years ago last week, the Pell Grant program launched to expand access to college to students with limited financial means," APLU President McPherson writes in an op-ed for Forbes. "The creation of Pell Grants proved a watershed moment in higher education. But even the grants' greatest proponents could have scarcely imagined the impact the program would have on American higher education – and society at large. Think of the impact to date. The grants have supported 80 million students as they pursued higher education since 1972." Read the full op-ed [here](#).

Passing of Joanne McPherson

Joanne Marie McPherson passed away on June 23, 2022, at her home in McLean, Virginia surrounded by family. Peter McPherson, her husband of 33 years, is APLU's President. Joanne served as First Lady of Michigan State University. In 1995, she founded Safe Place, the first shelter at any university to house and protect victims of domestic violence and stalking, and their families. For more on Mrs. McPherson's life, please see [here](#). Source:

Source: MI Life: ['She had spunk': Wife of former MSU president remembered for founding Safe Place shelter](#)

New Map

USDA NIFA released a new map of Land-grant Colleges and Universities (1862, 1890, and 1994). See the map [here](#).

See you at Joint COPs!

We look forward to seeing *BAA Section and Committee Leadership and the CARET Executive Committee* at the Joint COPs Summer Meeting on July 19 – 21, 2022 in Washington, DC. Details and registration are [here](#).

INFORMATIONAL



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

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

NIFA is hiring! Please see the [NIFA Career Opportunities](#) page for a current listing of career opportunities.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Calendar

See application deadlines [here](#).

APLU Member Job Postings

APLU has a [job board](#) on which member institutions may list available positions for which they are recruiting.

FOCUS is an 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 would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to email Suzette Robinson at srobinson@aplu.org with their contact information.

Doug

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