

FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

FROM DOUG'S DESK

Doug Steele, Vice President

I spent a majority of my “mid-career” teaching courses in leadership develop and conducting leadership assessment evaluations. One specific thought I always tried to address is that extroverts are rewarded more frequently than introverts when it comes to identifying potential candidates for promotion. As a Myer-Briggs ISTJ, and someone who grew up driving a tractor and raising swine, I definitely lean more towards an introvert in my characteristics. However, upon starting my professional career in Extension, and eventually moving into senior administrative positions, I realized you can adapt your leadership tendencies to multiple environments (human and programmatic) and be successful.

I recently read a summary by researchers at the University of Maryland Leadership Studies Program that found people associate the following words with “leader”: self-confidence, charisma, drive, and motivation. So, of course, extroverted personality types – who have an easier time making themselves known in a crowded room, who can influence others, who actively participate in conversations, and who feel positively about networking – fit well into the perception of what a leader should be. None of this means that Introverted personalities make bad leaders. All this means is that Introverts make a different sort of leader and need to move outside of their personality comfort zone to be effective.

The research study identified the following leadership traits (that can be applied to both extroverts and introverts) as indicators of leadership success: the skill of listening before speaking; the skill of seeking out deeply intentional conversations; and the skill of being naturally conscientious about your organizational culture and employee understanding of the mission. Bottom line, If leadership is a combination of vision (knowing where the organization should be headed) and followership (getting your people to energetically follow you toward that goal), those are the character traits that build towards ultimate success.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Update

Prepared for the Board on Agriculture Assembly by Lewis-Burke Associates

March was filled with hearings, appropriations deadlines, and updates from USDA. The House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology held a hearing on the Farm Bill Research Title with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Chavonda Jacobs-Young as the sole witness. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack has also been testifying in front of both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees. And, as reported earlier this month, President Biden released his budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2024. Priorities were largely consistent with last year's budget request, with increased funding sought for minority-serving and climate programs, as well as \$10 million proposed for the Research Facilities Act. [Read the full report.](#)

Advocacy in the News: Ag Research Spending and the Farm Bill

A recent article in Progressive Farmer examines the discrepancy in funding for cutting-edge agricultural research in the U.S. and abroad, and highlights BAA's Farm Bill funding request for the Research Facilities Act. [Read the full article here.](#)

**National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education,
and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board**

USDA is seeking membership applications for the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board and for the Board's four (4) committees and subcommittees. As a NAREEE Board or committee/subcommittee member, you'll contribute valuable professional insight that gives voice to your field and shapes USDA's future research and science programming. [View more information here.](#)



AgInnovation: Science that Feeds the World

After a strategic rebranding process, the Experiment Station Section launched their website www.aginnovation.info! The new site highlights the [ESCOP roadmap](#), [research initiatives](#), [organizational priority areas](#), and more.

AWARDS

**National Awards for Excellence in College and University Teaching
in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Program**

Applications due electronically by 5pm ET on April 15.

The [2023 USDA Teaching Award Guidelines](#) and [Evaluation Questions](#) are now available online. The [National Awards for Excellence in Teaching](#) recognizes outstanding college faculty in

agriculture, natural resources, veterinary science, human sciences, and related sciences. A selection committee of nationally recognized teachers and scholars choose **two national recipients, two early career recipients, and two teaching and student engagement recipients**. There are also **six regional awards**. Nominees are evaluated based on their ability as instructors, educational innovation, service to students, professionalism, and scholarship. Financial awards range from \$2,000-5,000 for these winners depending on the award category.

For more information on the application process, you can view the webinar recording of “*Crafting Successful Nominations for the USDA Teaching Excellence Awards Program*” [here](#). Please reach out with questions to Wendy Fink, Executive Director - Academic Programs Section, Board on Agriculture Assembly and Associate Vice President, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources at wfink@aplu.org.

National Cooperative Extension Awards

Applications due May 1. The following awards are open for nomination and offered by Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) in partnership with USDA-NIFA.

- National Extension Diversity Award
- Individual Awards for Excellence in Extension
- Team Award for Excellence in Extension

For full details, visit the new website awards.extension.org today.

2023 CARET Lifetime of Service Award Recipient

The 2023 CARET Lifetime of Service Award is presented posthumously to Jean-Mari Peltier. Jean-Mari was a tireless supporter of California agriculture, farmers, and farm organizations. She served as the CARET National Vice President and as President and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC). Her support and vision for research, Extension, and teaching programs have helped to propel CARET advocacy to new heights.

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of California (UC ANR) has established the Jean-Mari Peltier Endowment in her honor. 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.” Additionally, the UC ANR department generously put together a [video](#) to celebrate Jean-Mari. Thank you for honoring Jean-Mari’s legacy.

APLU / FANR EVENTS

2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting and 2023 New Administrators Orientation

2023 Joint COPs Summer Meeting

Loew’s Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte Street
Kansas City, MO 64108 | July 18 – 20, 2023

The Joint Committees on Organization and Policy (and associated groups) is the elected and appointed leadership from the Board on Agriculture Assembly sections executive committees (Academic Programs Section, Administrative Heads Section, Cooperative Extension Section, Experiment Station Section, International Agriculture Section), The Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS), Council on Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) executive committee and liaisons, the Policy Board of Directors and the three standing committees of the Policy Board of Directors: Budget and Advocacy Committee, Committee on Legislation and Policy {Farm Bill}, and Communication and Marketing Committee.

2023 New Administrators Orientation

Loew’s Kansas City Hotel, 1515 Wyandotte Street
Kansas City, MO 64108 | July 19 – 21, 2023

In addition to the Joint COPs meeting, the 2023 New Administrators Orientation will be held in Kansas City July 19-21. The event will have one-day crossover meetings with Joint COPs so that BAA and BHHS leadership can interact with the new administrators beginning at noon on Wednesday July 19. The New Administrators Orientation is intended for individuals on the Board on Agriculture Assembly and their supporting administrators or faculty, who have entered an administrative position recently; 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.

[VIEW DRAFT AGENDA](#)

PARTNER EVENTS

- **WEBINAR: The New Era of Digital Precision Agriculture**

April 11, 2023 | [Register Here](#)

The Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable will convene a webinar to discuss the latest technological advances, and related challenges, in agriculture to meet the increasing demands of global food supply.

- **CONFERENCE: 2023 National Health Outreach & Engagement Conference**

May 22-24, 2023 | [Register Here](#)

Keynote speakers, concurrent and poster sessions will be relevant for professionals who address health, nutrition, youth development, workforce development, and human development.

RESOURCES

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Resources

- **Careers at NIFA:** NIFA is hiring! Please see the [NIFA Career Opportunities](#) page for a current listing of openings.
- **Funding opportunities:** View the [NIFA Upcoming RFA Calendar](#) for the latest timeline for grant programs.

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 sign up here: [FANR Focus Newsletter](#)

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