

## FANR FOCUS: WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

#### FROM DOUG'S DESK

Doug Steele, Vice President

As we approach the holiday season and the celebration of Christmas (for many) I am grateful for the involvement of our APLU member institutions and affiliates, the amazing accomplishments that changes lives every day, and the dedication to serving others. The mission fulfillment of the Office of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources would not be possible without your engagement, volunteer leadership, and commitment to expanding our message on a national level. So this year, instead of another flyer or brochure, I want to simply wish you and your loved ones the best this holiday season and beyond. It is truly a privilege to work with you throughout the year.

*Doug*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **Washington Update**

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

**Congressional Update:** Since Congress took action last month to fund the federal government via a continuing resolution (CR) into early next year and passed an extension of the Farm Bill through September 30, 2024, no further progress has been made. Instead, Congressional leadership in both chambers are trying to navigate a foreign aid supplemental appropriations package and topline spending for fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations. However, with the CR for several bills, including FY 2024 agriculture appropriations, set to expire on January 19, 2024, we anticipate a lot of activity post the New Year.

**Senate Agriculture Committee Hearing on AI:** The Senate Agriculture Committee held a [hearing](#) on artificial intelligence (AI) and agriculture on November 14. This comes on the heels of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) [announcing](#) his intention to develop a policy response to the challenges and opportunities of AI and his request to Senate committees to investigate the issue within their jurisdictions. This hearing also comes after the White House released its [Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence](#).

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

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### **Welcome Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, 1890 Universities Foundation President & CEO**

The 1890 Universities Foundation announced that Jewel H. Bronaugh, Ph.D., former Deputy Secretary for the US Department of Agriculture, will serve as the next president and CEO of the 1890 Universities Foundation effective January 1, 2024. Bronaugh will succeed Dr. Mort Neufville, who served for seven years as the 1890 Foundation's first president and will retire at the end of December 2023.

Dr. Bronaugh arrives at the Foundation with an extensive background in agriculture and higher education. She brings exceptional experience and an appreciation for the 1890 land-grant mission.

Prior to her appointment to Deputy Secretary for USDA in 2021, Dr. Bronaugh served as the 16th commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from 2018-2021. She has had a distinguished 20-year career in higher education while serving in several leadership positions at Virginia State University (VSU) including Dean of the College of Agriculture and executive director of the VSU Center for Agricultural Research, Engagement and Outreach (CAREO). Dr. Bronaugh recently returned to VSU to assume the role of senior advisor to the Dean for Land-Grant Initiatives at the College of Agriculture. [Read the full press release.](#)

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### **Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) Update**

The CMC has had an exciting and productive 2023. We are grateful for the participation and support of the agricultural communicators and others from our member institutions. Recent highlights and accomplishments include:

- In coordination with the CMC, the APLU's FANR team assumed management of the National Impact Database ([Land Grant Impacts](#)). This extensive repository of the land-grant system's collective impacts statements in agricultural research, education, and Extension serves as a comprehensive and important resource for the land-grant system to amplify their accomplishments.
  
- To increase the research, education, and Extension communications expertise on the CMC, the team organized and executed a major restructuring of the CMC's composition, including adding five regional communications reps and one representative from both the International Agriculture Section and Multistate Research Fund Impacts Program.
  
- The FANR team produces and distributes materials spotlighting the value of land-grant universities' research, education, and Extension. This includes:
  - [FANR Focus](#)
  - [Monthly Communications Toolkits](#)
  - Websites
    - [AgIsAmerica.org](#)
    - [Land-grant.org](#)
  - Social Media Content
    - [Twitter/X](#)

- [Facebook](#)

READ THE FULL REPORT

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### **International Agriculture Education Fellowship Program (IAEFP)**

The International Agriculture Education Fellowship Program (IAEFP) is now searching for fellows for programs in **Ghana** and **Guatemala**. This program is funded by the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service and is hosted by the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University. This would be a perfect opportunity for graduating seniors, those looking for a year-long sabbatical, or other qualified individuals.

IAEFP is a fully funded, 10-month deployment for selected individuals. Fellows will begin training in the summer 2024, deploy to Ghana and Guatemala in the fall, and return in late spring 2025. While in the country, fellows will live in communities to work as agriscience teachers, establish youth development programs with sustainable agricultural projects, and work with community leaders to identify other agricultural development needs.

#### **Requirements to Apply:**

- Must have a degree in an ag-related field by August 2024
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Interested in a long-term, international experience
- Fluent in Spanish (Guatemala program only)

#### **Applications are due February 1, 2024**

Visit [the website](#) for more information about the program, to sign up on the interest form, and to apply for the program.

Please email [iaefp.borlaug@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:iaefp.borlaug@ag.tamu.edu) for any inquiries. Thank you.

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### **National Impacts Database (NIDB) Submission Deadline**

The [National Land-grant Impacts Database](#) (NIDB) is now administered by APLU through its Board on Agriculture Assembly's [Communications and Marketing Committee](#) and staff. The

NIDB is an important platform for documenting and demonstrating the collective impacts of land-grant university agricultural research, education, and Extension. NIDB provides a publicly accessible repository of impact statements demonstrating the individual and collective value of the land-grant university system. Impact statements are used for variety of purposes including advocacy, accountability, and education.

**We encourage you to submit your recent impact statements by December 29, 2023.** This will ensure that there is ample material in the database for our 2024 writing team, which will meet in early 2024 to prepare summaries and stories based on your impacts. These materials are used by the Administrative Heads Section/The Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET), USDA NIFA, APLU and others throughout the year to promote the work of land-grant universities.

The NIDB is open year-round for you to submit your impact statements. Please continue to submit your statements throughout the year—your statements will still be available and valuable to those searching the database, even if they are not ready in time for the 2024 writing team.

**For help writing and submitting statements, please see the training video [here](#) or the tip sheets [here](#).**

Please remember that only authorized users can submit impact statements. If you need to add/change your institution's authorized inputter(s), please email [agcomms@aplu.org](mailto:agcomms@aplu.org).

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## AWARDS

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### **Congratulations to APLU's Academic Programs Section** **2023 Fall Winners of Innovative Teaching Awards**

APLU's Board on Agriculture Assembly's Academic Programs Section (APS) named winners of its 2023 Fall **Innovative Teaching Awards**. In their tenth 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 2023 Fall winners are:

- *An Innovative Teaching Method for Therapeutic Landscape Design*  
**Bo Zhang, Oklahoma State University and Yiwei Huang, Purdue University**
- *Cultivating Impactful Teaching: An Innovative Agricultural Economics Teaching Academy*  
**Hannah Shear, Oklahoma State University, Jason Bergtold, Kansas State University, and Na Zuo, University of Arizona**
- *Incorporating “Food Waste as Fertilizer” Module into Instruction of Controlled-Environment Horticulture*  
**Kimberly Williams, Kansas State University and Yujin Park, Arizona State University**
- *Innovative Instructional Design through Problem-based Learning to Teach Statistics across Agricultural Disciplines*  
**Zhihong Xu, Texas A&M University**

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### **APLU and USDA Announce National Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences**

APLU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently honored public university faculty with national- and regional-level teaching awards recognizing excellence in agricultural sciences teaching and student engagement.

**Michael Gonda** of South Dakota State University and **De’Etra Young** of Tennessee State University were recipients of the national level Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

**Dan Stein** of Oklahoma State University and **Jennifer Weeks** of the University of Florida were named recipients in the national Teaching and Student Engagement category.

The six regional awards were presented to: **A. Ozzie Abaye**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; **Laura Bowling**, Purdue University; **Kristen Govoni**, University of Connecticut; **Russell Hovey**, University of California, Davis; **Kathleen Boyce Rodgers**, Washington State

University; and **Stephanie Yarwood**, University of Maryland, College Park.

**Logan Britton**, Kansas State University, and **Brandy Phipps**, Central State University, each received best early-career teacher honors.

[Read the full press release.](#)

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### **APLU Food Systems Leadership Award Nominations Open**

The APLU **Food Systems Leadership Award** annually recognizes a leader who has made an extraordinary impact on the food system through leadership and service. The award also recognizes the leadership, innovation, engagement, and service that APLU promotes through its programs.

The APLU Food Systems Leadership Award will be presented at the “*A Community of Scholars Honoring Excellence*” award program at the APLU Annual Meeting held in November. The award program honors awardees for regional and national excellence in Food and Agricultural Sciences from colleges and universities across the United States. The meeting is attended by top-level administrators from the 251 university memberships within APLU and administrators from USDA and FDA. The recipient will also be invited to address the current cohort of FSLI Fellows during one of the webinar sessions.

The **criteria for the award** and the directions for submitting, along with the nomination form, can be found on the FSLI Website: [APLU Food Systems Leadership Award – Food Systems Leadership Institute \(fsl.org\)](#). Please review the past awardees to get a sense of the caliber of the person who would be competitive for this award.

**The deadline for submissions is February 29, 2024.**

Please contact Dr. Sarah Kotzian, FSLI Program Manager ([sarah\\_kotzian@ncsu.edu](mailto:sarah_kotzian@ncsu.edu)), with any questions.

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### **Call for 2024 Golden Goose Nominations**

The **Golden Goose Award** honors federally funded researchers whose work may sound silly, odd, obscure, wasteful of taxpayer funding, or serendipitous, but has had a major positive impact on society. Groups of researchers have been recognized each year for breakthroughs in the development of life-saving medicines and treatments; game-changing social and behavioral

insights; and major technological advances related to national security, energy, the environment, communications, and public health.

**Nominations for 2024 awards are due Friday, December 15, 2023.**

- [Watch a webinar on the nomination process.](#)
- [Check out the toolkit with helpful tips for submitting nominations.](#)
- [Learn more about the 2023 awardees and their stories.](#)
- [Nominate someone today!](#)

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### **National Cooperative Extension Award Nominations Open Feb 1**

The Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP), in partnership with USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), offers the following awards:

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

Nominations begin February 1. For a competitive edge, begin the process of nominating well before the **deadline for online submission of May 1, 2024**. Winning Cooperative Extension professionals from [these land-grant colleges and universities](#) are selected by the end of July and will travel to the APLU Annual Meeting in November to receive their awards.

For more information, please visit <https://awards.extension.org/>.

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## **APLU / FANR EVENTS**

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## 2024 JOINT BHHS | CAFCS SPRING MEETING

February 20-22, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

### **BHHS | CAFCS Joint Spring Meeting**

February 20-22, 2024 | Washington, DC

**Registration opens soon!**



## CARET/BAA WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

February 25-28, 2024 | Washington, DC

### **CARET BAA Washington Conference**

February 25-28, 2024 | Washington, DC

Join us for the 2024 Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET)/Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Joint Washington Conference. This year's theme is *Investing in Capacity for Impact and Innovation*.

The event will bring together CARET delegates and BAA members to engage in dynamic programming, hear from food and agriculture leaders from across the country, and go to Capitol Hill to deliver the ask of the BAA. It is also a prime opportunity at which CARET delegates can gather with their associated Administrative Head Section members. Please join us for this dynamic event—we look forward to seeing you in DC!

**REGISTER HERE**

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **APS/NARRU Joint Winter Meeting**

February 27 - March 1, 2024

Washington, DC

### **ECOP Spring Meeting**

March 12-14, 2024

Central USA

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## **PARTNER EVENTS**

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### **National 4-H Conference**

April 19-24 2024 | Arlington, VA

Bringing hundreds of 4-H'ers to the nation's capital each spring, National 4-H Conference is the flagship youth development opportunity of USDA, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). From April 19-24, 2024, the nationally recognized event is developing the next generation of leaders alongside more federal partners than ever before. Experience unparalleled discovery, learning, professional development, and networking with 4-H'ers from around the world. The event features Conference roundtable sessions, Youth Career Fair exhibitions, special events, assemblies and much more. [See more information and register here.](#)

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## **RESOURCES**

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### **USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Funding Opportunities**

View the [NIFA Upcoming RFA Calendar](#) for the latest timeline for grant programs.

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## 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 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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*Doug*

**Douglas L. Steele**

Vice President, Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

1220 L Street, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 478-6082

E-Mail: [dsteale@aplu.org](mailto:dsteale@aplu.org)

Website: [www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)

Twitter: [@APLU\\_Ag](https://twitter.com/APLU_Ag)

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