Welcome to 2024! I hesitate to say Happy New Year because comedian and writer Larry David posted on social media that “the statute of limitations has kind of run out on the new year. Three days? Plenty.”

But as I look forward to this year, I think about what will be different from 2023 and what changes will be necessary to find success, create new partnerships and strengthen our national public and land-grant university message (both value and advocacy).

I recently read an article (that was referenced in The Scoop) by Adrian Gostick, employee engagement columnist with Forbes magazine where it was quoted that “Effective leadership will be more crucial than ever. Leaders who can help their teams navigate through the coming year’s transitions with resilience and agility will create the greatest value.”

I think that coming out of the pandemic we realized that employees value transparency, frequent communications, meaningful responsibilities and balancing work and life. As you think about personal and professional goals for 2024, consider revising your reading list, explore ways to encourage employees, model a work/life balance and organizing your workload so you can be more effective and have less stress. I personally believe that we will have many new and exciting prospects for our priorities this year and our collaborative efforts will enhance the probability for positive outcomes.

Best wishes as we enter 2024!

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:** Fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills were not passed in calendar year 2023; instead, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) with two expiration dates and focused on approving the FY 2024 *National Defense Authorization Act*. This action punted all other major legislation into the new year, leaving only 10 days until federal funding expires on January 19 for four of the FY 2024 appropriations bills, including the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill.

**Farm Bill Outlook:** The Senate and House Agriculture Committees began holding hearings concerning a Farm Bill reauthorization in late 2022 and through mid-2023. Members of Congress in both chambers have been introducing a steady stream of marker bills for possible
incorporation into the draft text. With respect to Title VII – Research, Extension, and Related Matters, staff are working on policy tweaks to existing programs and are discouraging efforts to authorize new programs. House and Senate Agriculture Committee staff are preparing draft text, portions of which may be released in early 2024.

Food Systems Leadership Institute Cohort 20

The Food Systems Leadership Institute (FSLI) is now accepting applications for the new Cohort 20 beginning in the fall of 2024. The FSLI is a national executive leadership development program of APLU with a mission to create a cadre of leaders who are dedicated to developing broader, more integrated and collaborative food systems focused on healthy humans, environments, communities, and economies.

FSLI provides Fellows with strategies to handle the leadership challenges and opportunities for the future. The FSLI experience develops or reinforces a series of core leadership competencies identified by a team of top-level leaders including university presidents and chancellors and leaders from industry and the non-profit sector who understand the requirements of food systems leadership.

If you have questions, please contact either Sam Pardue, FSLI Director (slpposc@ncsu.edu) or Sarah Kotzian, FSLI Program Manager (sehardis@ncsu.edu).

- View the FSLI recruitment packet
- Apply here

2024 Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Leadership Vacancies

Ken White, Vice President, Dean, and Professor at Utah State University, and chair of the Administrative Heads Nominating Committee is inviting nominations (eligible members are allowed to self-nominate) for the following Board on Agriculture Assembly leadership vacancies:

- Chair Elect Policy Board of Directors (PBD)/Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA, or the Assembly)
- Chair Elect Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC)
• Chair Elect Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC)

The Administrative Heads Section chair is on a regional rotation and the nominee for 2025-26 will be from the North Central Region.

A nomination ballot will be sent out next week to the voting eligible members of the BAA that outlines the duties and responsibilities of each opening and to solicit names to fill these critical leadership positions.

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**APLU/NASDA Strategic Federal Investment In Ag Facilities**

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Board on Agriculture Assembly and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture have joined together to reiterate support for the Research Facilities Act in the upcoming Farm Bill. This month, the organizations released a joint leave behind for members of both organizations to use in any ongoing advocacy with members of Congress and the U.S. Administration. Together, the organizations aim to ensure that the future of U.S. agricultural research innovation and Extension education is marked by American leadership both at home and around the globe.

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**AWARDS**

**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 (fsli.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), with any questions.

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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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**WEBINARS**
CARET Orientation Webinar  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 4:00pm ET
This virtual webinar will provide information on CARET processes to new and returning members, emphasize opportunities to strengthen CARET/AHS relationship; provide an overview of advocacy themes for 2024. Register here.

Modernizing Scholarship for the Public Good:  
An Action Framework for Public Research Universities  
Friday, January 19, 2024, 3:00pm - 4:00pm ET
Join us on Friday, January 19, for a special presentation on Modernizing Scholarship for the Public Good: An Action Framework for Public Research Universities. Elyse Aurbach, Director of Public Engaged and Research Impacts, University of Michigan, the leader of the APLU project, will present. The framework includes helpful ways to manage organizational change.

Public research universities have over 150 years of history of spearheading scholarship that advances the public interest. Founded to serve the public through their education, research, and engagement work, they provide life-changing education to students, advance society-shaping innovations, and engage communities to tackle our most stubborn challenges. The abstract and full report are available here.  
Advanced registration required. Register here.

Appropriations “All About the Request” Webinar  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 4:00pm ET
This virtual webinar will provide a review on the appropriations process, provide updates from BAA sections on FY2025 priorities, and prepare CARET delegates to answer questions on 2024 asks. Register here.
You are invited to attend the 2024 Joint Board on Health and Human Sciences (BHHS) and Council of Administrators in Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS) Annual Meeting! Join us February 20-22 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is **Impactful Leadership for Health and Human Sciences**. Through keynote speakers and interactive sessions, we will focus on dialogues that drive sustainable progress in human sciences and highlight the power of multisectoral approaches to ignite innovation.

**REGISTER: BHHS | CAFCS MEETING**

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!

Early bird registration ends January 15!
Regular registration January 15 - February 12.

REGISTER: CARET/BAA MEETING

APS/NARRU Joint Winter Meeting
February 28-March 1, 2024 | Washington, DC

Please join us for the 2024 Academic Programs Section (APS) / Non-land-grant Agriculture and
Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU) Joint Winter Meeting in Washington, DC! This
meeting will focus on employer partnerships and preparing students for post-graduation
employment success.

Attendees will hear about the state of the education sector, growth opportunities for colleges,
employers’ perspectives on the value of a college education, and micro-credentialing. Speakers
will also touch on campus programs that provide active and experiential learning opportunities
along with partnerships with employers to provide unique learning opportunities.

REGISTER: APS/NARRU MEETING
SAVE THE DATE

ECOP Spring Meeting
March 12-14, 2024
South Central USA

Contact Bill Hoffman, whoffman@aplu.org for more information.

2024 BAA Summer Leadership Meeting (formerly known as Joint COPs)
July 16-18, 2024
Providence, Rhode Island

Plans are to begin on July 16 at 8 am and adjourn at 10:00 am on July 18.

Who should attend: Elected and appointed leaders of all BAA sections; liaisons to sections and the Policy Board of Directors; and members of the Budget and Advocacy Committee, Committee on Legislation and Policy (Farm Bill), and Communications and Marketing Committee.

More details on logistics and draft agendas will be forthcoming.

PARTNER EVENTS

Fulfilling the Land-Grant Mission in a Modern Context:
Ensuring Equitable Education via Cooperative Extension
January 24, 2024 | Virtual
1:00pm - 2:30pm ET

In this workshop, Dr. Antonio Silas, the Baltimore City Extension Director for University of Maryland Extension, will provide an overview of how his faculty and staff work to ensure that the office’s educational offerings are accessible and equitable to the communities they serve. This will be discussed within the context of accomplishing the land-grant mission in a large urban locale. The presentation will also include examples of:

- Ensuring that research findings are equitably shared
- Touching on how programming and offerings are intentionally shared and made accessible
- Building trust within communities and addressing relevant challenges with research-based solutions

Register here.
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.

RESOURCES

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) 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
Doug

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