I was recently at a meeting where the “ice breaker” question was “what is your favorite Thanksgiving side dish?”. I guess they didn’t want to get into a debate about your favorite main dish to prevent a major debate from breaking out. As I was thinking about my answer, I also begin thinking about the Thanksgiving holiday and why it is so meaningful to many people. My typical response is family, food and football, but that is a very limited viewpoint and it made me think about the true intent of a National Thanksgiving holiday.

One of the first Thanksgiving proclamations was made in 1789 by our first President George Washington when he declared (as paraphrased by Patrick Goodness): “When we give thanks for our homes and material comforts, we are challenged to recognize those who are left without. When we give thanks for our families and friends, we call to mind the marginalized and the orphaned. When we give thanks for our freedom, we dutifully acknowledge those who live under the harsh rule of oppression and injustice. Truly, it is in this act of giving thanks that we recognize our responsibility to affect positive change in our world.”

Goodness comments, “I often tell my children that we must create the world that we wish to live in. If we wish to live in a kind world, we must offer genuine kindness to others. If we desire a clean world, we must be willing to clean up the mess, especially when we did not make it. If we wish to live in a merciful world, we must extend our hand to help someone who has fallen, for charity is the truest expression of mercy. If we wish to live in a peaceful world, we must seek out and enable justice for all. For there can be no peace without justice.”

But to me, what is truly unique is that our first president challenges us to accept the responsibilities and the duties that co-exist with the act of giving thanks. In essence, he encourages us to understand that it’s not enough to simply give thanks. The act of giving thanks requires us to acknowledge our blessings and in so doing, calls us to recognize our duties to create a peaceful, well-governed world.
I will close with a quote from President John F. Kennedy that is a reminder of the duties that accompany our celebration of Thanksgiving Day calls us to evaluate what we treasure most and to give thanks to those who are responsible for our blessings.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

Have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday filled with gratitude, family, and friends.

Doug

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Speaker Elected**
On October 25th Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA) was elected as the 56th Speaker of the House. Speaker Johnson, a constitutional lawyer in his fourth term, had previously served on the House
Armed Services Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and various leadership positions in the House Republican Conference.

**Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill**
On November 1, 2023, the Senate passed a three-bill minibus consisting of the Agriculture; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills by a vote of 82-15.

**Farm Bill Update**
With the House delay in electing a new Speaker and both chambers grappling with final packages for FY 2024 appropriations, many members of Congress, including the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, are now acknowledging an extension of the Farm Bill will be needed—punting debate and passage into 2024.

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**Welcome Dr. Mun Choi, Incoming CFERR Chair**

APLU is pleased to announce that Mun Choi, PhD is the incoming chair of the Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources (CFERR). CFERR focuses on broad cross-cutting issues related to agriculture, food, fiber, health and human sciences, natural resources, oceans, atmosphere, climate, and veterinary medicine in the functional areas of research, Extension, and teaching.

Douglas Steele, APLU's Vice President for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources remarked “We are excited that President Choi will become the next chair for CFERR. His collective vision to advance the opportunities for success and well-being in Missouri, the nation, and the world through transformative teaching, research, innovation, engagement, and inclusion aligns with the tripartite mission of our land-grant university system.”

Dr. Choi serves as the 24th president of the University of Missouri — a dual role as chancellor of the University of Missouri and president of the four campus University of Missouri System. Previously, Dr. Choi’s 25-year career in higher education included serving as assistant and associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, department head of mechanical engineering and mechanics at Drexel University, dean of engineering, then provost and executive vice president at the University of Connecticut. His full bio is [here](#).

“We’re thrilled to have President Choi serve as chair of the APLU Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources and on the APLU Board of Directors,” said APLU President Mark Becker. “He has been an exceptional steward of the University of Missouri and
brings a deep commitment to the land-grant mission. We'll be drawing on his critical experience to shape the agenda for public and land-grant universities nationally.”

Under the leadership of President Choi, the Commission will focus on advancing issues that cross the disciplinary areas represented by the five boards, develop and maintain effective communications within the Commission boards and relevant APLU organizations, engage in coalition building with appropriate organizations outside of APLU in pursuit of federal relations priorities and actively contribute to the APLU Board of Directors.

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**LEAD21 Call for Applications**

The LEAD21 program is intended to meet the future needs for leadership development of faculty, specialists, district and regional directors, program and team leaders, research station and center directors, department heads and chairs, and others in the universities’ colleges of agricultural, environmental, natural resources, veterinary sciences, and human sciences and USDA/NIFA. Individuals from land-grant, NARRU institutions, and USDA are encouraged to participate.

**Program goals are for participants to:**

- Enhance application of skills and knowledge learned in four core leadership development areas (change, conflict, communication, and collaboration).
- Develop a peer leadership network in order to enhance personal leadership practice, collaboration, and diversity of perspective.
- Develop and implement an individual leadership development process.

Applications are due November 15, 2023. [View the call for applications here.](#)

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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 Impacts Database (NIDB) Submission Deadline**

The National Land-grant Impacts Database (NIDB) is now administered by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) through its Board on Agriculture Assembly’s (BAA) 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 Academic 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 Andrea Putman and Kim Scotto.

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**BAA Joins Field to Market Alliance**
APLU’s Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) is pleased to be a new affiliate member of Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. Field to Market, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tackles urgent challenges by forging collaboration and translating science into action. They bring together over 190 member organizations to create a future in which farmers, business and nature thrive. Their diverse membership includes farmers, agribusiness companies, brands and retailers, civil society, public sector partners, and academia including several BAA members.

Field to Market offers science-driven and outcomes-based programs and tools that allow every sector of the agricultural value chain to work together to deliver on their most ambitious sustainability goals. The organization’s work aligns with the BAA’s mission of supporting agricultural research, education, and Cooperative Extension.

Learn more about Field to Market here.

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**Building Impactful Collaborative Platforms in the Land-Grant System: Call for Experts**

The National Academies is seeking suggestions for experts to participate in a new study on platforms that support collaboration on high-quality science, education, and extension among land-grant institutions, especially those that support the active participation of historically Black colleges and universities and Tribal colleges, along with non-land grant partners.

Individuals selected to serve on this study committee will be actively engaged over an 8-month period beginning in December 2023 to organize a workshop in the spring of 2024 that examines how collaborations on multidisciplinary questions in food and agriculture can be more impactful through platforms that permit broad participation and give equitable access to platform resources to participants.

The deadline to submit nominations is November 10, 2023.

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**AgriProspects Workforce Development Network: Twelve Coordinator Positions Available**

The Extension Foundation, in partnership with the ECOP Workforce Development Program Action Team, is seeking dynamic, collaborative individuals to help lead the AgriProspects Workforce Development Network. AgriProspects, supported through a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture AFRI Education and Workforce Development Competitive Grant 2023-67037-40533, establishes a National Working Group supported by six Regional Working Groups focused on growing and refining the national portfolio of Extension workforce programs.
AgriProspects seeks to align the supply of trained workers to the demand for agricultural jobs by developing and delivering a national agriculture workforce development framework.

The application deadline is November 10, 2023. Apply here.

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APLU / FANR EVENTS

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APLU Annual Meeting
Seattle, WA | November 12 – 14, 2023

The APLU Annual Meeting is the premier gathering of senior leaders from public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state university systems. The theme of this year’s meeting is Innovation for Impact.

REGISTER HERE

Specific to the Office of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, FANR staff are preparing the following sessions for our members:

- Awards Ceremony for the USDA Teaching, Extension and Research winners; Board on Human Sciences Awards; and Food Systems Leadership Institute Award and Fellows Graduation
- The Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture
- BAA USDA Partnership Update, featuring speakers from the four USDA Research, Education, and Economics mission areas
- BAA General Membership Session
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will deliver an in-person breakfast keynote address on Monday, November 13, 2023. Secretary Vilsack will underscore the critical role public and land-grant universities play in supporting rural prosperity through their actions such as spurring economic growth, spearheading cutting-edge scientific research and development, and developing the dynamic workforce of the future.

Session Invitation: Envisioning the Future of Health and Human Sciences

The Board on Health and Human Sciences would like to extend an invitation for you to join their session “Envisioning the Future of Health and Human Sciences” on Monday, November 13 from 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM at the 2023 APLU Annual Meeting. Please join us in conversation as we share our perspectives on including health as a core feature of the human sciences identity and discuss strategies to cultivate a growing community of academic disciplines inclusive of health and the human sciences.

Speakers:

- Erik Porfeli, Chair, Department of Human Sciences, The Ohio State University
- Lise Youngblade, Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences, Colorado State University
- Beverly Coberly, CEO, Extension Foundation
- Caron Gala, Director, Governmental Affairs, APLU

REGISTER HERE

SAVE THE DATE

BHHS | CAFCS Joint Spring Meeting
February 20-22, 2024
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC
CARET/AHS Joint Annual Meeting  
February 25-28, 2024  
Omni Shoreham Hotel  
Washington, DC

APS/NARRU Joint Winter Meeting  
February 27 - March 1, 2024  
Washington, DC

ECOP Spring Meeting  
March 12-14, 2024  
Central USA

PARTNER EVENTS

2023 AAAS Riley Memorial Lecture and RMF Policy Breakfast and Roundtable

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), in partnership with the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation and the World Food Prize Foundation, invites you to attend the 2023 AAAS Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Lecture, and the 2023 AAAS-RMF Policy Breakfast and Roundtable.

• CHARLES VALENTINE RILEY MEMORIAL LECTURE  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
5:00pm to 6:30pm ET  
Reception to follow

This year’s hybrid lecture will feature Dr. Joe Cornelius, Chief Executive Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations (Gates Ag One). Dr. Cornelius’s remarks will be followed by a Q&A session and a panel discussion with noted leaders Dr. Saharah Moon Chapotin, Executive Director at Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research, Dr. Daniel Robison, President of the C.V. Riley Memorial Foundation, and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University, and Dr. Sudip Parikh, Chief Executive Officer at AAAS and Executive Publisher of Science Family of Journals. The discussion will be led by Dr. Valda Vinson, Executive Editor of the Science journals.

• 2023 AAAS-RMF POLICY BREAKFAST AND ROUNDTABLE  
Wednesday, November 16, 2023
8:00 am to 10:00 am ET

In person or virtual

Dr. Cathie Woteki, RMF Board member, former USDA Under Secretary, and professor at Iowa State University, will moderate the panel discussion. The panelists include Mr. Jason Hafemeister, USDA Deputy Under Secretary, Mr. Alan Tank, Entrepreneur and Agriculture Industry Leader, Dr. Chris Boomsma, CAST President, and Mr. Brandon Honeycutt, Senior Professional Staff at U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Register for both events 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