

**Board on Agriculture Assembly**  
**\_\_Experiment Station Section\_\_ Report to Policy Board of Directors**

**PBD Member** Clarence Watson

**Reporting Period** Nov '15 – Mar '16

**Section Chair** Shirley Hymon-Parker

(Please check the BAA-PBD Goals that each activity directly addresses.)

<b>BAA Section Activities</b> (Briefly describe activities since previous reporting period)	<b>*Goals</b>	<b>Emerging Issues and Future Directions</b>	<b>Resource Advocacy</b>	<b>Farm Bill and Legislative Action</b>	<b>System Integration</b>
ESCOP, regional associations, Executive Directors work to assure that all Directors, especially those in new positions, are informed of developments.		X	X	X	X
All ESCOP and ESS documents, agendas, presentations, etc. are found on the website. There is a direct link from the ESCOP site to the Policy Board website.		X			X
ESCOP continues to support Lead21 and the Food Systems Leadership Institute.		X			X
ESCOP participates as a partner in the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee with NIFA and ARS to advise on managing the national plant germplasm repositories.		X			X
ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee members work to identify initiatives from the research community and advance them for incorporation into the System's advocacy effort. FY 2017 budget priorities have been determined and FY 2018 priorities are being discussed.		X	X		X
ESCOP Budget & Legislative and Communication & Marketing Committees and the Executive Directors continue to assist Cornerstone and kglobal in developing appropriate communication vehicles to promote federal budget priorities.		X	X	X	X
The Executive Directors work to keep ESS members informed of progress and issues related to implementation of the Farm Bill and issues for the next Farm Bill.		X	X	X	X
ESCOP's regional representatives on POW/AR Review Panel will work to help NIFA implement recommendations for improving the POW and Annual Report by participating on post-review subgroups.		X			X
ESCOP is a member of NC-FAR with Ernie Minton as the representative to their Board.		X	X	X	X
ESCOP Excellence in Leadership Award was established to recognize individuals who have served the Regional Associations, ESCOP, ESS, and the Land-Grant System with exemplary distinction. Regions choose an awardee that is recognized at the APLU awards ceremony.		X			
The ESCOP and ECOP Chairs continue their strategic alliance by having regular conference calls and meetings with key decision makers in NIFA and other federal agencies.		X	X	X	X

(Please check the BAA-PBD Goals that each new activity will directly address.)

<p align="center"><b>BAA Section Planned and New Activities</b> (Briefly describe any new activities planned for next year. Do not include continuing activities)</p>	<p align="center"><b>*Goals</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Emerging Issues and Future Directions</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Resource Advocacy</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Farm Bill and Legislative Action</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>System Integration</b></p>
<p>Robin Shepard and Mike Harrington have met with NIFA officials to emphasize the integrated planning, organizational details, and funding initiatives described in the National Initiative on the Improvement of U.S. Water Security report. A second follow up meeting will occur on Monday, March 7 during the AHS- CARET meetings.</p>					
<p>ESCOP will continue to support the joint BAA/BoHS Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People initiative by working with the new budget strategy committee as it develops a multi-agency budget request.</p>		<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>
<p>ESCOP presents two types of awards each year, Excellence in Multistate Research to a single project and Excellence in Leadership to someone from each region. The ESCOP Science &amp; Technology Committee will be reviewed nominations for the research award in early summer and a recommendation for the winning project will be made to the ESCOP Executive Committee. All awards are presented during the BAA awards ceremony at the APLU Annual Conference.</p>		<p align="center">X</p>		<p align="center">X</p>	
<p>The ESCOP Budget &amp; Legislative Committee has planned a joint meeting with the ECOP B&amp;L during the AHS/CARET meeting in March to discuss budget issues of mutual interests.</p>		<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>		<p align="center">X</p>
<p>The new NIMSS, on-line database management system for multistate projects, was launched earlier this year. An on-line user manual is available on the site and multiple web-based training sessions have been held. This version is much easier to navigate and has some enhanced capabilities.</p>					<p align="center">X</p>
<p>The newly appointed ESCOP Diversity in Research Leadership Task Force has been charged with exploring the topic of diversity in research leadership across the land-grant university system, to provide ideas and actions for consideration, and to supplement institutional, regional and national diversity and inclusion efforts. Focus will be primarily on enhancing diversity among AES and Research Directors, and their associates and assistants.</p>		<p align="center">X</p>			<p align="center">X</p>
<p>The ESS and CES will have their first joint national meeting this September 19 – 22 in Jackson Hole, WY. Joint session topics include AES/CES partnerships, Farm Bill issues, developing a unified message, and managing climate variability.</p>		<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>

\*Please see the attached 2007-2012 BAA-PBD Plan of Work Goals and Actions for more information on goals.