

Around the South

December 2007, Vol. 3 No. 12

■ Thank You and Happy Holidays!

With 2008 just around the corner, it is an opportune time for all of us at the SRDC to extend our deepest wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season. While it is always difficult to see another year come to an end, the SRDC staff is excited about the new efforts that are planned in 2008 – efforts that build on our recently released strategic plan. We look forward to working with our land-grant university colleagues and external rural development partners on a variety of important initiatives in the coming months.

On a more personal note, I am thankful for the dedicated, hard-working and innovative staff at the SRDC. You can't find a group of individuals who are any more committed to making a genuine contribution to the rural development mission of our region's land-grant universities. But like most organizations, our Center is experiencing some changes in its staff. It is with very mixed feelings that I note the departure of Emily Shaw from the SRDC. Emily moved into a new position in Mississippi State University's Academic Outreach unit in mid-November. On behalf of the SRDC, I want to publicly thank Emily for dedicating seven outstanding years to the Center. She will be sorely missed by all of us.

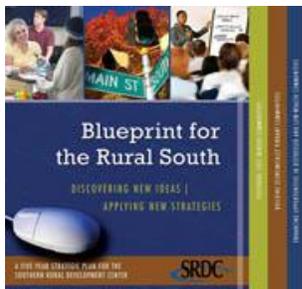
Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2008!

Bo Beaulieu, Director

■ SRDC Items of Interest

- **Registration Extended for Business Retention and Expansion Training**

Registration for the SRDC's January Business Retention and Expansion Training has been extended until noon on Thursday, December 20. The training, cosponsored by BREI, will take place January 7-9, 2008, at the Madren Conference Center and Inn in Clemson, S.C. It provides an assessment and planning framework that can be used to evaluate an established business retention program or design a program tailored to the specific needs and capacity of the local community. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to assess a community's readiness to implement a BR&E program, design an approach suitable for the community and implement the program.



Register now to reserve your spot! Space is limited. Please visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/07bre/> to register.

- **SRDC's Strategic Plan Still Available**

We are pleased to share that our recently released strategic plan, *Blueprint for the Rural South: Discovering New Ideas, Applying New Strategies*, has been very well received throughout the Southern region. The demand for the publication has been so high, in fact, that we have printed additional copies that are now available. If you would like copies of the SRDC's strategic plan, please contact Julianna Brown at 662-325-3207 or via email at julianna@srdc.msstate.edu. You can also access the report online at: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/sp/blueprint07.pdf>.

■ Other Items of Interest

- **New Report Showcases High School Dropout Rates in the United States**

A recently released report from the U.S. Department of Education profiles more than 500,000 students who left high school during the 2004-2005 school year. According to the report, the dropout crisis in the South is greatest for schools located in mid-sized urban areas and among Hispanic and African-American students. In addition, the South's largest and smallest high school districts exhibited the least success in student retention. The report can be found online at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008305.pdf>

- **New Searchable Database Available from RIDGE Program**

The Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Program recently announced the availability of a searchable database of project summaries. The RIDGE Program summarizes research findings of projects that were awarded 1-year grants through its partner institutions. This helpful search tool allows customized searches of all RIDGE projects by keyword, project, research center, investigator or year. The database can be found on the RIDGE Web site at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/Funding/RIDGEprojects.asp>

■ Funding Opportunities

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**

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<http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/dec07.htm> --Available Dec. 18

The SRDC staff compiles Grant Connections primarily for the faculty of land-grant

colleges and universities in the South to provide funding information in support of activities in agricultural economics, education, human sciences, rural sociology, youth development, and other related disciplines.

■ Conferences & Trainings

- ***Building Communities Educational Series, "Community and Economic Development"***
September 14, 2007 -- June 13, 2008
Web Trainings
http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/communities/Building_Community.cfm
- **4th Annual Tri-State Diversity Conference: Expanding our Cultural Circles**
January 17-18, 2008
Clarksville, Indiana
<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/dearborn/diversityconf.htm>
- **Fourth national "Strengthening Families, Youth, and Communities: Putting Knowledge to Work"**
February 11- 14, 2008
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
<http://www.clemson.edu/fyd/sfy.htm>
- **SARE 20th Anniversary National Conference**
March 25-27, 2008
Kansas City, Missouri
<http://sare.org/2008Conference/index.htm>
- **2008 Priester National Extension Health Conference**
"Building Healthy Communities, One Person at a Time"
April 8-10, 2008
Raleigh, North Carolina
<http://continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/PNEHC/>
- **6th Biennial ANREP (Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals)**
"Leopolds legacy: Extension's Response to a Changing World"
May 20-23, 2008
Madison, Wisconsin
<http://www.anrep.org/>

- **The Society for the Study of Social Problems 58th Annual Meeting**
"Crossing Borders: Activist Scholarship, Globalization, and Social Justice"
July 31-August 2, 2008
Boston, Massachusetts
Proposal deadline is January 31, 2008
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/23>
- **Galaxy III Conference**
"Celebrating the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity and Unique Qualities"
September 15-19, 2008
Indianapolis, Indiana
Abstract deadline is January 15, 2008
Abstract Submission Form: <http://ext.msstate.edu/survey/galaxy/>

■ Job Opportunities

- Extension Specialist
Center for Profitable Agriculture
University of Tennessee
View announcement:
<http://ext1.ag.utk.edu/Employment/Jobs.nsf/3eee22f2ad787729852569610074ccb9/3a4fffc41eb5565c85257394005f1e42?OpenDocument>
- Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Professor and Extension Economist, Community Economic Development
Department of Agricultural Economics
Texas A&M University
View announcement:
<http://agecon.tamu.edu/department/positionAnnoucements/CommunityEconomics.pdf>
- Extension Public Policy Education Specialist
Michigan State University
View announcement:
<http://web2.msue.msu.edu/personnel/VacancyDetail.cfm?JPosNo=1592>
- Assistant Professor, Social Documentation
Department of Community Studies
University of California, Santa Cruz
View announcement:
http://www2.ucsc.edu/ahr/academic_employment/bulletin_flyers_originaldocs_pdfs/07-08/374-08.pdf

- Sr. Research Specialist
Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Oklahoma State University
View announcement: <https://jobs.okstate.edu> (Req #03919)
- Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development Agent
University of Wisconsin-Extension
View announcement: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/hr/listing.cfm?PVL=C08040>
- Rural Economic Growth Specialist
ARD, Inc., Burlington, VT
View announcement: <http://www.aaea.org/classifieds/jobdetails.cfm?id=1004>
- Regional Extension Educator,
Community Economics University of Minnesota Extension
<https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=68475>

■ Submit Announcements

Job announcements and other items of interest may be sent to [Julianna Brown](#) for possible inclusion in future issues.

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