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SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST

Bonnie Teater Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations Requested

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010 Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual (not a team) who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development (CD) area. The nomination packet must be postmarked no later than March 19, 2010. View the Nomination Guidelines at http://srdc.msstate.edu/bonnie_teater/index.html.

SRDC Receives Designation as the New RIDGE Center for Targeted Food and Nutrition Assistance Research

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) has named the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) at Mississippi State University as the RIDGE Center for Targeted Food and Nutrition Assistance Research. The SRDC was selected by the ERS following a nationwide competition. The SRDC's new RIDGE (Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics) Center will coordinate and invest in innovative research that addresses the food and nutrition assistance challenges facing rural residents, Native Americans, immigrants and other key populations in the U.S. In addition, it will serve as a valuable source of funding for doctoral students who are pursuing promising research that aligns with the priorities of the SRDC RIDGE Center. For more information about this RIDGE, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/opportunities/ridge/>.

SRDC Delivers Business Retention and Expansion Courses to Tuskegee and Alabama A&M

The Southern Rural Development Center, Florida A&M University, and Business Retention and Expansion, International partnered to host a Business Retention and Expansion Fundamentals Course targeted to Extension professionals held at Tuskegee University on February 2-3, 2010.

Made possible with the cooperation of Tuskegee Cooperative Extension Program administration, participants included agents, specialists and program leaders from Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University. The program culminated with plans being developed for program implementation in three Alabama communities that have distinct socio-economic issues that may be addressed through the concepts utilized in the curriculum. For further information on the BRE Fundamentals Course, contact Alan Barefield at 662.325.3207 or alanb@srdc.msstate.edu.

Spring 2010 e-Commerce Mini-Grants Awarded

As part of the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative, the SRDC award mini-grants to those Extension Educators or teams of educators that are utilizing one or more of the current nine

online learning modules. This funding cycle the following teams were selected to implement these learning modules through workshop offerings in their target communities:

Talladega County Cooperative Extension, Talladega Alabama
Curriculum Selected: A Beginner's Guide to e-Commerce: Easy Tools for Profit
Facilitator (s) : Wanda Jurriaans, County Extension Coordinator for Talladega County, Alabama
and Isaac Chappell, Regional Extension Agent / Financial Management

Alcorn State University Extension Program, Various Counties, Mississippi
Curriculum Selected: A Beginner's Guide to e-Commerce: Easy Tools for Profit
Facilitator (s): Katrina McLin, Community Resource Development Educator

Congratulations to both teams on a job well done. To learn more about the mini-grants, visit the <http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/index.html>.

SRDC's Turning the Tide on Poverty Rolling Out in Pilot Sites

Excitement is building as three pilot sites have just kicked off the new Turning the Tide on Poverty initiative developed and initiated by the SRDC, with support from Everyday Democracy, The Farm Foundation, and The Kettering Foundation. The first three sites – Okfuskee County in Oklahoma, Tensas Parish in Louisiana, and Lauderdale County in Mississippi – have launched their kick-off events and are moving closer to the Study Circles phase of the project. Scheduled next, Neshoba County(Mississippi) has its kick off on February 18, 2010, while the remaining sites (Dallas and Perry Counties in Alabama, Elbert County in Georgia, and St. Landry Parish in Louisiana) are slated to commence in March and early April. After the kick-off events, community members will spend five weeks engaged in their Study Circles activities followed by an Action Forum, from which specific local actions will emerge to tackle poverty and other related challenges in the pilot communities. To learn more about Turning the Tide on Poverty, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/>.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Windham Appointed Associate VP-Agriculture Extension at Arkansas

Tony Windham has been appointed Associate Vice President for Agriculture and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service. Windham has served as the interim head of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service since June 2009, University of Arkansas Vice President for Agriculture. Before being named interim director, Windham was assistant director for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, a position he kept as interim. Windham grew up on a farm near Forest, Miss. He earned a B.S. in Ag Engineering Technology and Business in 1981, his M.S. in Ag Economics was awarded in 1985, and a Ph.D. in Ag Economics in 1988, all from Mississippi State University. Windham began his career with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture in February 1988 as an Extension Economist - Management housed in the Little Rock office. In August 1995, he was named Section Leader - Agricultural Economics. In January 2002, Windham was appointed

Section Leader - Agricultural Economics and Community Development. He was named Assistant Director - Community and Economic Development in February 2005. In October 2006, Windham was appointed Assistant Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Community and Economic Development.

Number of New Companies Created Annually Remains Remarkably Constant Across Time

According to a new study released Wednesday by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, new-business creation in the United States is remarkably constant over time. *Exploring Firm Formation: Why Is the Number of New Firms Constant?* reveals that none of the factors that might bear on prospective entrepreneurs' decisions to form new companies—recessions, expansions, tax changes, population growth, scarce or abundant capital, technological advances or others—has much impact on the pace of U.S. startups. Read the full study at http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/exploring_firm_formation_1-13-10.pdf.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities

http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/grant_connections.html

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 AND TRAININGS

Latinas and Latinos in the U.S. South: Immigration, Integration, and Identity

February 19-20, 2010

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

<http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=170520>

Community Development Society / International Association for Community Development Joint Annual International Conference

July 24-28, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

http://comm-dev.org/inside/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=7

Southern Economic Development Council

2010 Annual Conference

August 14-17, 2010

New Orleans, Louisiana

<http://www.sedc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=4>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Dean and State 4-H Program Leader, University of Tennessee Extension

View announcement:

<http://ext1.ag.utk.edu/Employment/Jobs.nsf/391A69A9E21691508525695800526330/787249D11A80F431852575D600713BE7?OpenDocument>

Associate Director, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Southeast Missouri State University

View announcement:

<http://www4.semo.edu/humanresources/JOBS/AssocDirector-CIE.htm>

Center Director, East Tennessee Research and Education Center, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station

View announcement:

<http://taes.utk.edu/upload/AgRsch/ETRECDirectorAnnouncementandProspectus.pdf>

Center Director, Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station

View announcement:

http://agresearch.tennessee.edu/position/MTREC_Director.pdf

Dean, College of Agriculture and Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station

View announcement:

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/adm/dean-dir/search/>

Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, Michigan State University, National Institute for Food and Agriculture, USDA

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/documents/11-09-ncrcrd_director_position_announcement_09.pdf

Family Education Coordinator/Family Life Human Development Specialist

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/files/family_life_specialist_8553.pdf

Research Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service/USDA

View announcement:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/Employment/OpportunitiesPage.htm>

Research Social Science Analyst, Economic Research Service/USDA

View announcement:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/Employment/OpportunitiesPage.htm>

