

Item: ED Report

Presenter: Eric Young

On-Going Goals:

- Manage the SAAESD Multistate Project Portfolio, Activities, and Other Association Business
- Facilitate Inter-institutional Collaboration within the Southern Region and Nationwide
- Enhance Integration of Research with Extension and Academic Programs
- Identify and Communicate Emerging Issues and Opportunities
- Provide Data and Information to Assist the Southern Region Directors in AES Management
- Promote the Southern Region to Decision Makers and other Stakeholders
- Represent the Southern Region Directors with Regional and National Groups
- Work within APLU and with USDA’s NIFA and ARS to Promote Favorable Federal Policies and Improve the Southern Region’s Research Capacity
- Collaborate with other Regional Research and Extension ED’s on National Issues and Other Activities
- Carryout Other Tasks as Requested by SAAESD Directors and Their Chair

2013/14 Activities	Manage Business	Facilitate Collaboration	Enhance Integration	Identify Issues & Opportunities	Provide Data & Information	Promote Southern Region	Represent Directors	Work with APLU & USDA	Collaborate with Regional ED’s	Carryout Other Tasks
Major and New Activities										
In collaboration with Ron Brown and Hunt Shipman, I organized the Battelle report event in DC last April. There were 51 people in the audience with good representation from political and stakeholder sectors. Based on Hunt Shipman’s and Simon Tripp's past experiences with these types of events on Capitol Hill, ours was a great success. Chairman Lucas attended with seven of his staff, as well as John Goldberg and other Congressional staffers representing at least seven different House members.		X	X	X		X	X		X	X

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I worked with Jane Schuchardt of ECOP to develop the program and present an Orientation Workshop for new deans, directors, administrators, and NPLs on Dec 4-5. Session topics included APLU/BAA structure & function, NIFA structure & function, changing state & federal landscape, partnering, and effective advocacy & marketing.	X	X	X	X				X	X	
NRSP 7 and 4 Discussion – NRSP 7 leadership approached NRSP 4 about the possibility of merging the two projects, as they were originally. Their initial meeting was Mar 14 during the IR-4 business meeting. At that time I was asked to facilitate further discussions between the two groups. Subsequently I facilitated conference call and face-to-face meetings of a small joint group to explore the possibility of a merger. After significant discussion and numerous versions of a proposal, it was decided that the two groups did not have enough common goals and processes to warrant a merger.		X		X	X		X	X		X
As lead AA for NRSP-8, I worked with the writing committee to facilitate the project's peer review and development of the renewal proposal. The proposal was recommended for approval by the NRSP Review Committee without comments and approved by the directors with a five-year total budget of \$2.5 million.	X	X	X		X		X	X		X
I worked with the ECOP Program Committee to determine the desirability of ESS joining CES in development of a searchable impact database. Subsequently this was recommended by an ESCOP task force that I supported and approved by ESCOP. I'm currently representing ESS, along with Bill Brown, on an integrated steering committee that is guiding the database development.	X	X	X		X		X		X	
Joint Workshop with Academic Program Directors – A second joint workshop with the southern region Academic Programs directors was organized and held Sep 10-11 in Atlanta to discuss common issues and concerns, share best management practices, and identify potential joint initiatives. Discussion topics included integrating education into research grants, on-campus/off-campus faculty interactions, sustaining high cost facilities, and teaching/research synergy.		X	X	X	X				X	X

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I organized a meeting between Bart Hewitt and his staff (NIFA) and representatives of SABO and the other four region's business officers to discuss concerns regarding the new REEport system on Dec 3. Prior to this meeting I compiled a large collection of comments, concerns, and suggestions on REEport from business officers throughout the LGU system.				X	X		X	X		
Along with Ron Brown, Arlen Leholm, and Robin Shepard, I helped facilitate the AES and CES directors of the 12 Mississippi River states signing a Non-funded Cooperative Agreement with the federal Hypoxia Task Force. Subsequently, Robin Shepard and I have initiated the development of a SERA multistate project to help coordinate the research and extension efforts in those 12 states and interface with the Task Force.	X	X	X	X			X		X	
I chaired an external review team commissioned by Bill Brown to conduct a comprehensive review of the University of Tennessee AgResearch division. The five-member review team spent five days in Tennessee in Feb visiting outlying research & extension centers and the Knoxville campus, and met with numerous groups of administrators, faculty, and staff. As chair, I compiled and edited the team's report, which included 26 recommendations.	X				X					X
Other Regional Activities										
Southern Region Multistate Projects – With my Administrative Assistant, Donna Pearce, and the MRC, twelve replacement S projects were approved along with one SDC, two SCC.	X	X	X	X	X					
Excellence in Multistate Research Award – Three project nominations were submitted for regional consideration and SERA-5, Sweet Potato Collaborators was sent in as our nomination for the national award. SERA-5 won the national award making it the third southern project to win out of six national awards.	X	X				X				
NRSP-8, National Animal Genome Research Program, Lead Administrative Advisor – This project is up for renewal Oct 1, 2013, I worked with the Chair and Species Coordinators to develop the accomplishments report and renewal project proposal, which was recommended for approval by the NRSP Review Committee without comment and approved by the directors in September with a \$2.5 million five-year budget. I met with this project group Jan 11-12.	X	X				X	X			

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S-1043, Economic Impacts of International Trade and Domestic Policies on Southern Agriculture, Administrative Advisor – The current project terminated Oct 1, 2013. I organized a special meeting with the Writing Committee to identify the new project objectives and begin writing the proposal. The final proposal for the replacement project, S-1056, was approved by the MRC without comment. I met with this project group May 2-3, Nov 21-22, and the newly approved project, S-1062 on Mar 6-7, 2014.	X	X								
SCC-83, Quantifying the Linkages between Soil Health, Organic Farming and Food, Administrative Advisor – Ongoing project that meets alternately with the American Society for Horticultural Science and the Agronomy Society of America. I met with this group on Nov 2-3.	X	X								
SCC-80, Plant Breeding – This “top-down” project was initiated by Ann Marie Thro (NIFA) and myself in 2007 to bring together public and private plant breeders. In 2009, this project group established the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB), a professional association representing all plant breeders. Currently I’m assisting the leadership in identifying and understanding the unique roles of SCC-80 and NAPB in preparation for a NAPB strategic planning effort. I met with this project group June 3-5.	X	X								
SERA-42, Enhancement of Leadership Capacity in the Food Systems through Coalition Development – This SERA was approved for an additional two years on Oct 1, 2012. I am the research administrative advisor for this project, along with the extension AA, Tim Cross. I met with this project group Nov 9.	X	X	X							
AC-6, Horticulture, Administrative Advisor – This group meets annually at the Southern Association of Agricultural Sciences conference to review multistate projects related to horticulture and discuss issues relevant to their departments.	X			X			X			
AC-13, Forestry, Administrative Advisor – This AC had been inactive relative to SAAESD until 2010 when I reconnected with them through the Southern NAUFAP group. I now meet with them annually, either at their spring or fall meetings. I met with this group on Oct 22-23.	X			X			X			
SERA Review Committee Member – This research/extension committee reviewed four replacement and two new proposals and made recommendations to ASRED and SAAESD on those projects’ proposals.	X	X	X				X		X	

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SAAESD Financial and Personnel Database – Database parameters include statistics on funding from federal and state appropriations, grants, contracts, and other sources and FTE's of faculty, staff, and administration and provides graphic comparisons state by state or region-wide. The database manager at TAMU has retired and due to administrative and server changes, our database has been taken off-line. I'm working with Scott Cummings, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, to determine alternatives to reinitialize this database.					X					
Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee, Tecoman Winter Nursery Steering Committee, and Cotton Winter Nursery (CWN) Executive Committee – I serve as an advisor for these Cotton Council committees that meet annually by conference call or at the Beltwide Cotton Conference. Cotton Council has just decided to terminate its relationship with INIFAP in Mexico resulting in closure of the CWN. I am currently working with Dan Upchurch, ARS, Richard Percy, ARS, and Don Jones, Cotton Inc, to determine alternatives for reestablishment of the CWN at a new location. I met with the CWN Steering Committee on Aug 29 and the Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee on Jan 8.		X		X			X	X		
Southern Region IPM Center Steering Committee Member – As a member of this group, I met with the National IPM Coordinating Committee on Oct 1 as they developed recommendations related to the new NIFA Pest Management program, which will include the regional centers and be guided by a national steering committee.		X	X	X		X	X	X		
Southern Region Water Quality Program Advisory Committee Member – Attended the Ecosystem Restoration conference July 30-Aug 2.				X			X			
Southeast Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources Alliance (SAFER) Advisory Council Member				X		X	X			
Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group – This group was organized by UFL faculty working with leaders from key Caribbean agricultural organizations to promote collaborations related to invasive species. A symposium on the topic was held July 3-6 during the CFCS conference and I met with the CISWG on July 6.		X	X	X		X	X			

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Gulf of Mexico Alliance Federal Workgroup Alternate – The five Gulf coast states AES's and CES's membership in GOMA was accepted formally in March, 2011 and currently numerous research and extension faculty are part of GOMA's six Priority Issue Teams. I serve as an alternate for the southern experiment station representative. I attended the National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Listening Session on Oct 30-31, the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Conference on Jan 27-30, and the Gulf of Mexico Summit on Mar 24-27.		X	X	X		X	X			
Southern Dairy Foods Research Consortium Advisory Committee Member – This industry/university consortium includes NCSU and MS State, and is one of four similar regional dairy consortia. I met with the SDFRC on Aug 14-15.		X	X	X		X	X			
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Liaison – I met with ASRED on Aug 20-22.		X	X	X			X		X	
Association of 1890 Research Directors Liaison – I attended the ARD Research Symposium on April 7-10 and met with ARD on June 19-20.		X		X			X		X	
Best Practices Sessions – Arranged BP sessions on Private Company Terms and Conditions for our spring meeting. This lead to a small group of directors developing a white paper on a region-wide list of preferred T&C's for industry contracts that the directors may use to help guide negotiations and leverage commonly accepted practices in the region.				X	X					
Southern Region Administrative Heads (includes 1890's AHS) – At their request, I meet with this group at their winter meeting during the SAAS conference and the summer S-AHS/CARET meeting to report on SAAESD activities and assist the S-AHS with various tasks. Ron Brown and our chairs also attend the summer meeting. I met with S-AHS on Aug 4-6 and Feb 3.		X	X	X	X		X			
Southern Association of Business Officers – I interact with this group on issues usually related to reporting nationally or regionally. I meet with them once a year, either at their regional meeting in fall or the NIFA business officers' conference in spring. I met with this group at the NIFA business officers' conference on May 6-9 and at their regional meeting on Sep 18-19.				X	X		X			

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Bioenergy and Bioproducts Related Activities – I attended the BIO Conference on Dec 9-12.				X	X	X	X	X		
Other conferences – I attended the United Fresh Public Policy Conference on Sep 30-Oct 3 to learn about the policy issues the fresh fruit and vegetable industries are dealing with and how they plan to address them.				X	X		X			
ESCOP Assignments										
BAA Policy Board of Directors – I support the ESCOP representative on this BAA governing body, currently Steve Slack (Ohio State University). I met with the PBD on July 23, Nov 12, and Mar 11-12.				X			X	X	X	
National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee – I serve as the Executive Vice-Chair of this committee, which meets once per year at USDA/ARS Beltsville. I support the Chair, currently Tom Burr (Cornell Univ) and facilitate committee activity. I met with the NPGCC on June 13-14 and ASTA (liaison to NPGCC) conference on June 16-19.		X		X	X		X	X		
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy – All the EDs support this committee, which has only had conference calls since Sep 2012.				X	X	X	X	X	X	
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Advisory Committee – I represent all agricultural experiment station directors on this committee. I met with AOSCA and the Advisory Committee on June 23-26.		X		X	X		X			
National Multistate Coordinating Committee – This committee includes all the regional and national executive directors, or their equivalent, for research, extension, and academic programs. I met with this group Apr 23-24.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
ESCOP – I support the three southern region members of ESCOP, our ESCOP Executive Committee member, and am a member of the ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee. I met with ESCOP or ESCOP Exec on July 24-25, Nov 11, and Mar 3. The ESCOP CAC has monthly conference calls.		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	

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ESS Workshop Program Committee – The five research ED's collaboratively developed and moderated the ESS Workshop program Sep 24-26. I was specifically responsible for the session on the APLU Board on Natural Resources Roadmap.		X		X	X		X	X	X	