

**Item: S22 - ED Report – 2017/18 Regional and National Activities**

**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

<p align="center"><b>2017/18 Activities</b> (Activity priority: 1=high, 2=medium, 3=low)</p>	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
<b>Major and New Activities (Regional and National)</b>										
<p>NPGS Awareness Campaign<sup>1</sup> – In Sep, 2017, I was asked by Jane DeMarchi, Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs for the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), to participate in an effort to raise the awareness and support of the National Plant Germplasm System. Our initial meeting took place Oct 3 in DC with Andy LaVigne (ASTA CEO), Karl Anderson (Tri-Societies’ lobbyist), Kanika Gandhi (Sustainable Ag Coalition), Peter Bretting (ARS), Jane, and myself. That meeting lead to a round-table in DC on Dec 19 involving ~ 20 representatives from industry organizations, professional societies, NGO's, USDA, universities, and others to discuss how best to proceed. Communication with decision-makers was identified as highest priority, so I’m currently collecting success stories from breeders that demonstrate the value of NPGS in variety improvement.</p>		X	X	X	X		X	X		X

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New Dean & Directors' Orientation <sup>1</sup> – Windy Fink, Robin Shepard, Lyla Houglum, and I planned and organized the first new dean and directors orientation workshop since 2013. Work was done through a series of by-weekly conference calls starting in July 2017, which led to the workshop on Dec 13 – 14 in DC. 79 people attended, including 18 presenters.		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Joint Southern Mini Land-grant Meeting <sup>1</sup> – I was asked by the S-AHS to lead an effort to reestablish a southern mini Land-grant meeting beginning in spring 2019. This meeting will involve the 1862 and 1890 AHS, research, Extension, and academic programs directors, as well as the region's CARET delegates. UFL will host the meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. A logistics planning committee, consisting of the ED's of each group along with UFL's and FAMU's administrative heads, and a representative from UFL's conferences office worked through most of 2017 to select a hotel, determine meeting schedules, and space needs. The committee was expanded in January to include a representative from each group and is now working on planning the all-day joint session.	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Southern Local Foods Initiative <sup>1</sup> – This project began Oct 1, 2016 as SERA47; Strengthening the Southern Region Extension and Research System to Support Local & Regional Foods Needs and Priorities, with Ed Jones and I as AA's. The project's second meeting was Aug 1 - 2, 2017, in Atlanta. This group has progressed rapidly to establish regional Extension programming and to begin researching the social & economic aspects of local foods.	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Infrastructure Deferred Maintenance Study <sup>1</sup> – The Deferred Facilities Maintenance Strategies Committee, with Tom Coon (OK State) as chair, developed a funding strategy during 2016. I was one of the support ED's for that committee and their report was presented to the PBD in Nov, 2016. The PBD then appointed a small task force, with Tom as chair, to develop parameters for a potential competitive infrastructure grant program. I was asked to support that task force, which met on Oct 25, 2017.		X		X	X			X	X	

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LEAD 21 Board <sup>1</sup> – In March, 2016, I was appointed as a new ESCOP representative on the LEAD 21 Board of Directors. This is the governing Board for the LEAD 21 program and makes all the final decisions on financial and personnel matters. I met with the Board at their regular meetings on Jun 23, 2017, in Minneapolis and on Feb 23, 2018, in DC. My term is four years.		X	X	X			X			
New ESCOP Web Site <sup>1</sup> – Jeff Jacobsen (North Central ED) and I lead the effort to develop a completely redesigned ESCOP web site. Along with the other ED's and their assistants, we worked with Clemson ITT to design a site that is better organized, easier to use, and informational for stakeholders outside of ESCOP. The effort involved numerous conference calls starting in fall of 2016 resulting in the site going live in early August, 2017.	X				X	X				X
New SAAESD Web Site <sup>1</sup> – Donna and I worked with the NCSU Extension Information Technology office to redesigned the SAAESD web site, which went live in November, 2017. The annual fee for maintenance, security, and server space will be approximately \$1,000.	X				X	X				X
Cotton Winter Nursery Relocation <sup>1</sup> – The CWN has been relocated to northern Costa Rica with Alfonso Palafax as the nursery manager. We have leased land for the nursery plantings outside of Liberia, CR. The land also has a large building that has been modified to serve as the facility for ginning & de-linting, small equipment & supplies storage, mechanical workshop, and office. I visited the CWN on Jan 30 – 31 with Don Jones of Cotton Inc. to meet with the manager and observe the plantings and new facilities.		X		X	X		X	X		
SERA 18, Rice Technical Working Group <sup>1</sup> – I took over as AA for this project in Dec when John Russin retired. This group is in the process of rewriting their SERA proposal and had questions about continuing. They organize a conference on all aspects of rice production each year that attracts 400 – 500 participants from many rice-producing areas of the world. I worked with their Executive Committee to explain the benefits of remaining a SERA and helped finalize their proposal for submission. I met with this group Feb 19 – 21 in Long Beach, CA.		X	X	X	X					

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<b>Regional Assignments and Other Continuing Regional Activities</b>										
Southern Region Multistate Projects <sup>1</sup> – With my Administrative Assistant, Donna Pearce, and the MRC, three new S projects were approved to begin Oct 1 along with one new SCC and three new SERA's.	X	X	X	X	X			X		
NRSP-8, National Animal Genome Research Program, Lead Administrative Advisor <sup>1</sup> – This project has a \$2.5 million five-year budget that is divided among six species groups plus bioinformatics. I provide administrative advice to these Coordinators as well as the project's overall chair and chair-elect. In 2017, this group worked on rewriting the project proposal for a new 5-year term beginning Oct 1, 2018. I worked with the Writing Committee Co-chairs to ensure they had a complete proposal and all supporting documentation. I met with this project group Jan 12 – 14.	X	X				X	X			
S-1062, The Importance of US Food and Agricultural Trade in a New Global Market Environment, Administrative Advisor <sup>1</sup> – This group has been writing a new project proposal, which was submitted for peer review in February. I met with this project group in Nashville on Oct 8 – 10.	X	X		X			X			
Hypoxia SERA 46 <sup>1</sup> – Along with Robin Shepard (Extension ED, NC Region) I continue to serve as the Administrative Adviser for SERA 46, a multistate project to coordinate the research and extension efforts in the 12 Mississippi River states who signed the Non-funded Cooperative Agreement with the federal Hypoxia Task Force in fall '13. I attended the SERA 46 meeting and subsequent HTF meeting in Biloxi on Sep 28 – 29.	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
SCC-80, Plant Breeding <sup>1</sup> – 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. SCC-80 was renewed October 2015, I met with this project group during the NAPB conference in Davis, CA on Aug 7 – 10.	X	X		X	X		X			

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AC-13, Forestry, Administrative Advisor <sup>1</sup> – This AC had been inactive relative to SAAESD until 2010 when I reconnected with them through the Southern NAUFAP group. I now try to meet with them annually, either at their spring or fall meetings. I met with the national and Southern region NAUFAP groups during the SAF Conference in Albuquerque Nov 15 – 17.	X			X	X		X			
New Director Visits <sup>1</sup> – When a new Director (COO) begins their job in the Southern region, I visit with them on campus sometime within the first 3 to 6 months. This visit is intended to orient them to SAAESD, ESCOP, APLU, and my responsibilities, as well as to get to know them better. I visited with Allen Moore at UGA on Oct 26 and Wilfredo Robles at UPR on Mar 14.	X				X	X				
SERA Review Committee Member <sup>1</sup> – This research/extension committee reviewed three new proposals and made recommendations to ASRED and SAAESD on approval of the projects. This committee meets by conference call in early August.	X	X	X				X		X	
Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee <sup>1</sup> – I serve as an advisor for this Cotton Council committee that meets annually at the Beltwide Cotton Conference. I met with this group on Jan 4 during the Beltwide Conference in San Antonio.		X		X			X	X		
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Liaison <sup>1</sup> – We had a joint spring meeting April 24 – 27 in New Orleans.		X	X	X	X		X		X	
Southern Region Administrative Heads <sup>2</sup> – I now work 10% of my time as a consultant ED for this group to assist with their winter meeting during the SAAS conference and the summer joint S-AHS/CARET meeting, and other projects as needed. In this role, I also report on SAAESD activities and act as a liaison between the two groups. Travel to their two meetings is covered under my consulting contract.		X	X	X	X		X		X	

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Southern Association of Business Officers <sup>1</sup> – I interact with this group on issues usually related to national or regional reporting. 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 Oct 18 – 20 in Lexington.				X	X		X			
Joint Southern Region Academic Programs and SAAESD Meeting <sup>1</sup> – The fifth joint meeting of S-APS and SAAESD directors will tentatively occur in Sep, 2018. Discussion topics will be decided by the two groups over the next couple months..		X	X	X	X					
Unmanned Aircraft in Agriculture <sup>1</sup> – This new project started Oct 1, 2016, as S-1069, Research and Extension for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Applications in U.S. Agriculture and Natural Resources. During 2017, three subgroups submitted AFRI grant proposals aligned with project objectives. Two were funded, one was not, but will be resubmitted. The second project meeting was at TAMU in College Station, TX on Mar 1 – 2. The group is working on developing common protocols for meta data collection during UAV flights.		X	X	X						
<b>ESCOP Assignments and Continuing National Activities</b>										
ESCOP <sup>1</sup> – 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, as well as work on various tasks with other EDs as assigned by the ESCOP Chair. I met with ESCOP or ESCOP Exec on July 17 – 22, Nov 13, and Mar 5. The ESCOP CAC has monthly conference calls.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Experiment Station Section <sup>1</sup> – In addition to ESCOP, I represent the Southern Region overall in the Experiment Station Section (ESS). ESS meets annually in September and in 2017 met in Philadelphia on Sep 25 – 27.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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BAA Policy Board of Directors <sup>1</sup> – I support the ESCOP representative on this BAA governing body, currently Gary Thompson. I met with the PBD on July 19 in Calgary, Nov 14 in DC, and Mar 21 – 22 in San Antonio.	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee <sup>1</sup> - I serve as the Executive Vice-Chair of this committee, which meets once per. I support the Chair, currently Jim Moyer (Washington State Univ) and facilitate committee activity. I met with the NPGCC on May 31 – June 2 in Geneva, NY and attended the ASTA conference, as liaison from NPGCC, June 21 – 23 in Minneapolis.		X		X	X		X	X		
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy <sup>1</sup> – All the EDs support this committee, which was formerly the Farm Bill Committee. I met with CLP on Nov 14 in DC.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NRSP Review Committee <sup>1</sup> – I was the Executive Vice Chair of the NRSP Review Committee supporting Clarence Watson as chair until our terms ended Sep, 2017. The NRSP-RC reviews renewal and new proposals for National Research Support Projects and makes recommendations to the Experiment Station Section on proposal and budget approval. I arranged the meeting and met with this committee in Atlanta on June 7.	X	X		X	X		X		X	
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Advisory Committee <sup>1</sup> – I represent all agricultural experiment station directors on this committee. I met with AOSCA and the Advisory Committee on June 11 – 14 in Cleveland.		X		X	X		X			
National Multistate Coordinating Committee <sup>1</sup> – This committee includes all the regional and national executive directors, or their equivalent, for research, extension, and academic programs. I missed this group's meeting last spring due to a conflict.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
National Impact Database Steering Committee <sup>1</sup> – Along with Ron Brown, I support the NIDST that sets policies for impact entry and advises the programming group at TAMU who manages the ECOP/ESCOP impacts database. This group meets monthly by conference call.	X		X		X		X	X	X	