



North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

209th Meeting
 Beck Agricultural Center, Purdue University
 West Lafayette, IN
 Tuesday, July 25, 2017, 10 am to 2 pm

Final AGENDA and Draft MINUTES (page 3)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item #</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
10:00 am	1.0	Welcome and Call to Order	Archie Clutter, NCRA 2017 Chair
	2.0	Approval of Spring 2017 Minutes, see: http://ncra.info/docs/Historical/Minutes/April2017.pdf	
	3.0	Adoption of the Agenda	
10:05 am	4.0	Interim Actions of the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCRA ESS Chair • ESCOP B&L Committee NC Nominations 	Archie Clutter
10:30 am	5.0	1994s and 1862s: Exploring Priorities and Capacities	John Phillips
11:00 am	6.0	Exploring a Collaborative Working Space for Graduate Education in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Agbiosciences	Shawn Donkin
<i>12:00 noon</i>	<i>Working lunch, boxed lunches provided</i>		
12:15 pm	7.0	NIFA Update	Jeff Jacobsen for Parag Chitnis
12:30 pm	8.0	NCRA Plan	Archie Clutter, All
1:00 pm	9.0	MRC Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multistate projects approved for 2018 • New MRC Member Needed • 2018 Nomination Call for Excellence in Multistate Research Award 	Joe Colletti, Deb Hamernik, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton
1:10 pm	10.0	NRSP Review Committee Update	Jeff Jacobsen (for Doug Buhler)
1:30 pm	11.0	NC Admin Boot Camp Report	Ernie Minton, Jeff Jacobsen, Bill Barker, Bill Gibbons, George Smith
1:40 pm	12.0	Fall NCRA Meeting Topic Ideas	All
1:50 pm	13.0	National Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Bill Update • Infrastructure Survey • Other 	All

		<p>Future Meetings: http://ncra.info/Organization_UpcomingMeetings.php</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 Fall ESS/AES/ARD Meeting and Workshop, September 25-28, 2017, Philadelphia, PA, Hyatt at the Bellevue • 2017 APLU Annual Meeting, November 12-14, 2017, Marriot Wardman Park, Washington, DC 	
2:00 pm	Adjourn		

Written Briefs (for information only)

- [End of FY2017 NCRA Office Budget](#)
- [ESCOP Joint COPs 2017 summer meeting agenda and briefs](#) (external link; for information only)

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Archie Clutter, Greg Cuomo, John Phillips, Deb Hamernik, George Smith, Marshall Martin, Joe Colletti, Dave Benfield, Ernie Minton, Bill Barker, Jane Schuh, Shawn Donkin, Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton

Item #	Notes	Action Taken
2.0	NCRA spring meeting minutes 2017	Spring 2017 NCRA minutes approved.
3.0	Jeff Jacobsen will cover the NIFA update, Item 7.0, for Parag Chitnis	July 25, 2017 NCRA business meeting agenda adopted/approved.
4.0	<p>Our two FY2019 ESS chair nominees, Ernie Minton and Deb Hamernik, were asked to leave the room and the remaining directors discussed the merits of both candidates, since the electronic vote was very close. Following discussion, Marshall Martin made a motion to select Deb Hamernik. Motion seconded and approved by all.</p> <p>Karen Plaut has requested to move off the ESCOP B&L as the NCRA rep, due to her changing role with Purdue. Shawn Donkin has been temporarily taking Karen's place on the B&L. Dave Benfield is also interested in taking on this role. Dave and Shawn were asked to leave the room, so the remaining directors could discuss the role. Bill Barker made a motion to approve Dave Benfield as the NCRA rep on the ESCOP B&L committee. Motion seconded and approved.</p>	<p>Deb Hamernik approved as the NC FY2019 ESS Chair nomination. Jeff will communicate to ESCOP for approval. (DONE)</p> <p>Dave Benfield approved as the new NCRA rep on the ESCOP B&L committee.</p>
5.0	John Phillips updated the group on collaborative 1994 and 1862 activities that have occurred since he met with the NCRA in April 2017. John indicated that the May 2017 Haskell Indian Nations University water meeting was a good example of collaborative efforts between 1994s and 1862 LGUS. Discussion on creating such partnerships are in the planning stages for the summer 2018 mini-land grant meeting in Fargo, ND. John will work with Jeff Jacobsen to further define and support models of	For information only.

	effective research, extension, and teaching collaboration activities between 1994s, 1862s, and 1890s.	
6.0	<p>Click here to access Shawn’s slides at the end of the file.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Perhaps NIFA and NSF would be interested supporting a program for improving graduate programs, especially transdisciplinary skills, career and professional development, etc. Could we use our NCACs to collaborate on a cross-cutting, graduate education discussion? Are the needs of ag graduate education different from other fields or can we better partner with NIH, NSF, etc.? Reach out to industry to see what training they need from students, such as teamwork and management. NIH BEST (Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training) program does a good job of partnership to improve biomedical career development. A training model through UIC is currently in early development. Interagency partnerships (NIFA, NIH, NSF) with industry would be invaluable.</p> <p>What can the NCRA do to facilitate students to find experts and training? Big 10 alliance model is one option, in which students to take distance-based courses at other institutions, but pay their home university.</p> <p>Next steps for NCRA: Perhaps create working group to identify areas of opportunity (interagency funding) and strategies for improvement. Group could be comprised of graduate education experts within our colleges and share best practices. For now, Shawn will contact UIC as a starting point and expect continued conversation as the UIC completes their initial work.</p>	For information and discussion.
7.0	<p>Parag Chitnis from NIFA was unable to attend, but most topics were already discussed in the main session during the advocacy report.</p> <p>Other items not addressed:</p>	For information only.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIFA is trying to better organize faculty visits to meet with NPLs as teams • NIFA is looking at their state liaisons and what that means and would like input on how this individuals could better interact with us • Parag compliments the NCRA on its forward thinking and how we provide feedback for NIFA. We should consider ways to be even more strategic with this relationship and the time we spend with Parag. • The NCRA expressed its appreciation of Parag, as well. • Ian Maw has announced that he will retire from APLU 12/2018. 	
8.0	<p>Jeff and Archie gave a summary report of NCRA Plan activities and their statuses. Jeff/Chris will bring up the plan regularly, especially during our Executive Committee calls, asking for feedback, additions, deletions, etc.</p>	<p>For information and discussion; please continue to work with Jeff and Chris to develop and improve the NCRA plan and our collective activities.</p>
9.0	<p>Joe Colletti reviewed the NC multistate project approved to start 10/1/2017 in the MRC agenda brief provided below.</p> <p>Bill Barker volunteered to be our new MRC member. Chris Hamilton will update the NCRA FY18 officer's list for review at the Fall ESS NCRA business meeting.</p> <p>The floor was opened up for discussion on the FY2018 National Multistate Research call for nominations, which will be voted for final approval at the Fall ESS business meeting. Consensus was to endorse the updates to the nomination call, as written.</p>	<p>For information only.</p> <p>Bill Barker will join the NCRA MRC on 10/1/2017.</p> <p>The NCRA endorses the updates to the ESS National Multistate Award call for nominations.</p>
10.0	<p>NRSR-RC update, given by Jeff Jacobsen for Doug Buhler. See brief below. A formal vote on the NRSP1 proposal will occur at the 2017 Fall ESS business meeting. NRSP6 will</p>	<p>For information only.</p>

	be encouraged to seek strategies for alternative funding by their midterm review next year.	
11.0	NCR Boot Camp report (see webpage here for presentations and other materials). Boot camp was successful and well-received. We are in the process of collecting post session feedback for improvements and additional topics, as well as when additional training should occur. Bill Barker mentioned that the training seemed mature and developed. George Smith indicated he'd be interested in seeing scenario-based discussions to enhance the training and keep it different from other trainings. Perhaps ACOP could be included in future session. Ongoing interest to engage with other groups/regions exists.	For information only.
12.0	<p>Fall NCRA meeting topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F&A: how industry F&A is managed at different institutions, state laws, policy, etc. Federal F&A also. Pre-survey on for-profit, commodity groups. Deb has much of that data and she'll share with Jeff/Chris, who will forward out to the group for further enhancement and distribution prior to the fall NCRA meeting. Faculty start-ups, fees on campus. Making university space available for start-ups. Faculty business issues. Use agreements, conflicts of interest. 	<p>For information and discussion.</p> <p>Jeff and Chris will collect information and discussion a BP focused agenda with the NCRA EC for an agenda.</p>
13.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure: The NC and W especially are pushing APLU and Cornerstone to develop programs using the infrastructure survey to develop future funding strategies. This is an on-going effort. Other (Purdue): Idea to re-purpose FFAR funds create five centers of convergent research. Shawn Donkin passed out a one-pager on the idea to share with Doug Buhler. Jeff will share the 	For information only.

	information with Doug and follow-up at the fall NCRA meeting.	
<i>Meeting adjourned at 12:56 pm ET</i>		

NCRA Office Budget Summary as of 7/17/2017

Written brief, for information only.

FY2018 Assessments Received:

Michigan State University	\$ 36,190.00	April 2017
Univ of Nebraska	\$ 36,343.00	April 2017
Purdue University	\$ 35,440.00	April 2017
Kansas State University	\$ 34,299.00	May 2017
South Dakota State University	\$ 31,370.00	May 2017
Ohio State University	\$ 37,382.00	May 2017
University of Illinois	\$ 38,080.00	June 2017
Iowa State University	\$ 39,255.00	June 2017
FY'18 INCOME TOTAL	\$ 288,359.00	

NCRA FY2018 Budget (with 2017 actuals as of 7/17/2017)

INCOME				
	FY2016	FY2017		FY2018
Description	Final	Budget	YTD***	Budget
State Assessments	370,763	425,763	425,761	425,763
Account Carryover (MSU)	17,371	17,371	17,371	40,015
TOTAL INCOME	388,134	443,134	443,132	465,778
EXPENSE				
	FY2016	FY2017		FY2018
Description	Final	Budget	YTD***	Budget
NCRA				
Regional Initiatives	12,000	-	-	
NCRA Subtotal	12,000	-	-	
MICHIGAN STATE				
Executive Director Salary	190,000	196,000	196,000	205,000
Fringe*	44,466	51,156	51,156	53,505
Office Operating	2,476	3,000	4,535	3,000
Travel	20,961	30,000	31,131	30,000
Training	8,550	-	-	-
MSU Administrative/Service Fees	4,930	5,603	5,603	5,830
MSU Subtotal	271,383	285,759	288,425	297,335
U of WISCONSIN				
Assistant Director Salary	67,255	72,255	72,255	79,480
Fringe**	27,393	30,462	30,675	35,637
Office Operating	2,320	3,000	1,258	3,000
Travel	9,725	8,000	9,852	8,000
Training	200	-	380	500
Meeting Support	-	2,000	1,756	2,000
UW Subtotal	106,893	115,717	116,176	128,617
TOTAL EXPENSE	390,276	401,476	404,601	425,952
BALANCE	(2,142)	41,658	38,531	39,826

*MSU FY18 fringe: 26.1%; FY17 26.1%, 25.75% estimated; FY16 25.45%.

**UW FY18 est. fringe: 44.6% + monthly service charge of \$15.66; FY17 fringe 42%, 37.5% estimated.

***Full FY expenditures for salary + fringe + MSU admin fees, YTD actuals, for other categories.

NCRA Accounts at MSU and UW			
Account at MSU	FY16	FY17	FY18
MSU Starting Balance	7,191	17,371	40,015
MSU Income	370,763	425,763	425,763
MSU Budgeted Expenses	283,383	285,759	297,335
MSU Budgeted Expenses + UW invoice	372,572	403,119	426,725
Estimated MSU Ending Balance/Carryover	5,382	40,015	39,053
Actual MSU Ending Balance/Carryover	17,371	tbd	
Account at UW	FY16	FY17	FY18
UW Starting Balance*	16,520	(1,184)	(773)
UW Income	-	-	-
UW Expenses	106,893	116,176	128,617
Actual UW Ending Balance/Carryover**	-	-	-
UW Operating Reserve (3 mo)	25,000	25,000	25,000
Estimated UW Invoice to MSU**	92,619	117,360	129,390
Actual UW Invoice to MSU	89,189	116,587	
*Unexpected UW fringe rate change from 37.5% to 42%.			
**UW will invoice MSU mid-quarter for actual expenses (\$32,155 in August 2017; \$32,155 in November 2017; \$32,155 February 2017, and ??? In May 2018 to cover final 2018 expenses).			

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Item 8.0: NCRA Plan

Presenters: Archie Clutter, Jeff Jacobsen

XXX	Initial NCRA Plan Element
XXX	Active NCRA Plan Element
XXX	New NCRA Plan Element

NCRA Plan

1. MULTISTATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE (MRC)

Ensure that multistate projects are linked to priority NC research themes (NOTE: assumes there are agreed-upon themes)

- Cross reference (matrix) NC multistate projects with Battelle Study, ESCOP Roadmap, USDA NIFA priorities, PCAST Report, ECOP Strategic Opportunities, Natural Resources Roadmap, NCCEA, key federal agencies, others. Also, need to account for NCR faculty participation in other regional committees.

ACTION: Align MRC priorities and review processes. Consider all options (combine, terminate, create). Identify research gaps and emerging issues and determine next steps.

- Future Multistate projects – Industrial hemp (SERA), Big data or open access data (NRSP proposed not approved) and NC librarians, Unmanned aerial systems (SERA), viticulture (NC ?), microbiome, oats (SD, MN), organic systems, local/urban/regional food systems, Monarch butterfly, soil health, others.

ACTION: Openly consider priority of NC projects and the various committee options.

Create/enhance assessment methods to get stakeholder (groups vary by task/issue) and peer input

- Do we routinely ask the same (or any) questions of NCAC groups? Completed. Need to develop questions and provide to the AAs and NCAC members. For example: recent initiatives at the federal level, professional society perspectives on issues and their initiatives)
- Do we ask anything of the state/regional/national commodity groups or organizations, foundations and other federal agencies?

ACTION: Review the interactions and review contributions from NCAC groups.

- Encourage stronger NCAC discussion and input. Discuss existing state mechanisms to receive input and determine if these could (should) be scaled up or other alternatives considered. Reviewed all NCAC projects and discussed with AAs.

Are MRC funding approaches across the NCR appropriate and adequate? Are there alternative models to be considered?

ACTION: Inventory of use, needs/opportunity. NCRA could discuss implications and alternatives.

Assist in the training of new AAs and resourcing new directors

- Create and update as needed (MI, MN, MO, WI, SD)

2. CATALYZE GROWTH AND QUALITY IN PARTNERSHIPS

Explore new networks across thematic areas with faculty expertise (group, program and facility registry), shared analytical/service/pheno and genotyping/clinical facilities, watershed/wetland labs, climate science centers, geospatial technologies and many others. Integrate and optimize

the LTARs, LTERs, forest stations and [field station system](#) (e.g. dairy, specialty crops) investments in regional/national system.

ACTION: Create an inventory template(s) for each state to complete prior to meeting and conduct a 'speed dating' session(s).

What is the strategic relationship between NCRA and NCR Administrative Heads, Extension, CARET and Academic Programs? Is there any type of regional (maybe national) programmatic aspirations to identify and articulate an NCR agenda or enhance key programs (e.g. across climate, water, health and other themes)? NCCEA is a recognized regional entity with potential priority focus given the NCRA.

ACTION: Directors discuss potential opportunities

- [NC Climate Expertise \(AES and CES\)](#)
- [North Central Water Network collaborations](#) (Greg Cuomo and Jeff are active)
- [NC Boot Camp for new/recently appointed administrators](#)

Enhance graduate student training and synergies across the NCRA (e.g. graduate student exchange and experiences, recruitment, shared NCR courses)

- [Exploring a Collaborative Working Space for Graduate Education in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Agbiosciences](#) (postponed to Mini LG 2017)

Strategic discussions, actions and leveraging with regional faculty expertise across NCRA institutions and:

- USDA ARS, National Animal Disease Center and other national labs
- Danforth Center and others
- Research centers and stations (with faculty and/or staff) and others
- [Existing Centers/Institutes at LGUs and programs in veterinary medicine, biomedical and engineering](#) (NCR Antibiotic Resistance Roundtable)
- Private sector research programs ([Protein Highway](#))

Explore the strategic opportunities for programmatic collaborations

- Canadian and Mexican universities (given the recent addition into APLU and potential existing linkages as well as proximity to several NCRA States) ([APLU has formed a committee, explore invitations to mini Land-grant meeting](#))
- Commodity groups in region/nation
- NRCS, Forest Service, BLM, Conservation Districts and others
- 1890, 1994, other institutions
- [Protein Highway or Ag Innovation Corridor \(I29-I35 and Highway 75 \[US and Canada\]\)](#) (Greg Cuomo exploring opportunities)
- [Sun Grant Advisory Group](#)
- Regional Governor's Association or State Departments of Ag/Environment/Natural Resource Agencies ([consider integrating NASDA, NACO](#))

Create new and expand stakeholder assessment, consultation and implementation activities

ACTION: tbd

3. ENHANCE THE NCRA:

Periodic communication (e.g. conference calls or emails) with Executive Committee

- [Instituted monthly Executive Committee calls either by phone and/or zoom](#)
- [Conduct as needed with NCCEA or other groups](#)

Add value to the region and NCRA brand

- NCRA (and other regions) presence on ESCOP website
- NCRA Website redone in 2011. Future consideration
- An increasing number of LGUs are declining to host 'allied' websites at their institution. Explore the ramifications for those sites that are part of the NC portfolio. Could be connected to 'big data' initiatives.

Budget

- Routine activity

Engage with and build relationships with key groups (USDA NIFA, Cornerstone Government Affairs, APLU)

- CARE Panel Manager (x2)
- Interactions with all levels of administrators, NPLs, staff
- Sightlines National Steering Committee member
- Tactical Sciences Conversation with UMD and NIFA
- Attend NERAOC as a rotation; CARET/AHS and contribute to Congressional one-pagers; Joint COPs; S&T Liaisons
- NIFA webinars; Feedback to NIFA; Preapproval for equipment purchase with capacity funds, Time and Effort reporting

Professional development for AD and ED

- UW and MSU as appropriate; Diversity training; NIFA webinars, NERAOC meeting; SSSC annual meeting, USDA Agricultural Economic Outlook Forum
- Develop plan/ideas for on-going experiences

Promote regional multistate awardees through NCRA action

- Instituted refinement process (with assistance from NC state communication/editor staff for NC nomination prior to national submission)
- Provided signed certificate to all members of the NC regional awardee
- Created letter for MRC Chair to send as feedback to all applicants
- Improved the national call for multistate project nominations and evaluation criteria for S&T review

Regional programs

- Open access data (ESS, NCRA, new NRSP); New LGUs; State and federal budgets; Diversity initiative (NCRA and as ESS initiative); Climate (NC AES/CES discussions and website); Tech transfer faculty feedback experiences (NCRCRD); Unique facilities
- Provide accountability actions with USDA and others (e.g., NIMSS regional lead); NRSP1 AA
- Create initiatives (courses, training, joint committees; discussion with grad program leaders) with graduate students to leverage and grow the NC enterprise; Off-the-top funding mechanisms; Practices and future IP trends with domestic and international markets
- State visit rotations for ED (consider integrating 1994 connections)
- Other themes – water, soil health, hemp, UAS, organic systems (periodic calls), microbiomes, anti-microbial resistance (NC1206, Antibiotic Resistance Roundtable)
- Best Practice Sessions: P&T, TT or NTT faculty (early); Start-up and retention packages; Program redirection, evolution or elimination; Space renovations and (re)allocation; Succession planning with faculty and administration; Creating educational opportunities for faculty, legislators, state agencies, federal officials, upper administration regarding

stations/centers and other aspects of unique operation; [Working with millennials](#), [Issues with faculty with businesses](#) (e.g. productivity, time and effort, space and equipment rental, Pre- and Post-award services (grant review, workshops); Building and facility security; Teaching workloads and splits; Split-funded positions (university and grower groups/agencies); Diversity hires and spousal accommodations; Pre- and Post-approval grant award services; F&A conversations (institutional distribution, sources [federal, regional, state associations/agencies, foundations, industry], waivers, all with an eye to the future

- Funding alternatives with operations, maintenance, renovations or new construction at centers or stations (e.g. timber, gravel, livestock, stone, farmer-owned, foundation/gifts, endowments, development professional focus); [Pros and cons of user fees associated with greenhouses](#) (postponed), labs, centers/station, equipment
- Uses of NIFA capacity funds and leveraging to capture competitive funds
- Professional advancement and best practices exchange for staff and leaders at centers/stations organized as NCCC
- Provide seed money to regional priorities to leverage with external groups and other institutions (Organic, Dairy Research Institute ([on-going discussion more as CES activity](#)), Climate, Water, Big data, Open Access Data, others)
- Several states conduct a Washington, DC visit for new faculty. Should there be an analogous program for existing faculty and/or NCRA directors?
- Organized state visits for NCRA directors
- Facilitate a service for department/unit reviews (like USDA used to do; recently this has been mentioned as a restart within the agency)

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Item 9.0: MRC Report, July 2017

Presenter: Joe Colletti, MRC Chair

Actions requested:

- For information – project approval summary below
- New MRC member volunteer needed to replace Daniel Scholl
- Comments/discussion on the updated [Call for Nominations](#) for the 2018 ESS Award for Excellence in Multistate Research (see tracked changes below)

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Summary of New and Renewed NCRA Multistate Project Proposals Approved for 10/1/2017 to 9/30/2022

- NC7, Conservation, Management, Enhancement and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.
- NC1200, Regulation of Photosynthetic Processes.
- NC1201, Methods to Increase Reproductive Efficiency in Cattle.
- NC1202, Enteric Diseases of Food Animals: Enhanced Prevention, Control and Food Safety.
- NC140, Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production Through Changes in Rootstock Use.
- NC170, Personal Protective Technologies for Current and Emerging Occupational and Environmental Hazards.
- NC1198, Renewing an Agriculture of the Middle: Value Chain Design, Policy Approaches, Environmental and Social Impacts.
- (NEW) NC1205, MONARCH BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION.
- (NEW) NC1206, Antimicrobial Resistance.
- NCERA184, Management of Small Grain Diseases.
- NCERA225, Implementation and Strategies for National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation.
- NCERA103, Specialized Soil Amendments and Products, Growth Stimulants and Soil Fertility Management Programs.
- NCERA224, IPM Strategies for Arthropod Pests and Diseases in Nurseries and Landscapes.
- NCERA218, Health, well-being, and economic opportunity for LGBT persons in rural communities.
- NCCC215, Potato Breeding and Genetics Technical Committee.

2018 Experiment Station Section Award for Excellence in Multistate Research (July 2017)

Purpose

The fundamental mandate of the Multistate Research authority compels State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) to *interdependently* collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority, but for which no one state station could address singularly. Demonstration of interdependence is a high standard, and has become a hallmark of the Multistate Research Program's management objectives.

The purpose of the Experiment Station Section Excellence in Multistate Research Award program is to annually recognize those station scientists who are conducting exemplary multistate activities and enhance the visibility of the multistate program. A recipient Multistate Project will be selected from the pool of nominees submitted by the five regional research associations (NCRA, NERA, SAAESD, WAAESD, and ARD), and judged by the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee to exhibit sustained, meritorious and exceptional multistate research activities. The ESCOP Executive Committee will provide final approval.

Award

The Experiment Station Directors have approved a monetary recognition of \$15,000 from the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF) for the Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner. Up to \$5,000 has been available to cover travel for up to two members of the recipient project (the Administrative Advisor and Chair or their designees) to attend the awards ceremony at the APLU Annual Meeting. The remaining \$10,000, and any unused travel funds, has been available to support activities which enhance and contribute to the research and/or outreach objectives of that multistate project, consistent with the appropriate use of Hatch MRF. Use of these funds is a project committee decision made in conjunction with its Administrative Advisor.

Eligibility

Any current Multistate Project (research, ERA, CC) listed in NIMSS (www.nimss.org) is eligible for consideration for an Excellence in Multistate Research Award. The nomination is predominantly based upon the five-year project period.

The Multistate Research authority allows other non-SAES partners to join in these project-based collaborations. Thus, many multistate projects include extension specialists as members, as well as Agricultural Research Service or Forest Service research scientists. In addition, many projects have private sector and non-Land-grant participants. Moreover, the majority of multistate projects have participants from more than a single region, with many having representation from all regions such that they are national in scope.

Basis for Nomination

Each of the five regional research associations may nominate one Multistate Project chosen from the entire national portfolio of active projects. An individual project can document collaborative activities with one or more different multistate projects, if applicable, within the appropriate nomination criteria. Nominations shall be made to the Chair of the respective regional Multistate Research Committee (MRC) or Multistate Activities Committee (MAC) via the regional Executive Director's office. The documentation for this type of nomination should be sufficient to allow the review committee members to evaluate the Project according to the criteria listed below.

Criteria and Evaluation

Successful selections from regional nominations and advanced to the national competition for the ESS Excellence in Multistate Research Award will demonstrate high standards of scientific quality, research relevance to a regional priority, multistate collaboration on the problem's solution, and professional leadership in the conduct of the project.

All nominated projects, in the required format, shall be evaluated using the same criteria (with weights shown) based on the Project's:

- Issue, problem or situation addressed (5%)
- Objectives (5%)
- Accomplishments as outputs, outcomes and impacts (40%)
- Added-value and synergistic activities across mission areas (30%)
- Evidence of multi-institutional and leveraged funding with examples of sources (15%)
- Summary of participating institutions and units (5%)

Selection Process

The ESCOP Science and Technology (S&T) Committee will serve as the review panel. The review will select from the annual group of regional nominees a national winner in time for public announcement and award presentation at the APLU Annual Meeting each year. All nominated projects will be evaluated using the same criteria.

Award and Presentation

The national winning project will be recognized by the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) Chair and USDA NIFA Administrator during the Awards Program held at the APLU Annual Meeting. Each of the regional award winning projects will be included in the APLU Awards Program by project number and title, technical committee chair, administrative advisor and participating institutions. This National Awardee narrative will be created by the Impact Writer and submitted to S&T Executive Vice-Chair. The title of the national winning project will be added to a plaque located at the USDA Waterfront Center.

Timeline

- October – Announcement sent to Directors and Administrators, Administrative Advisors and NIMSS participants by ESCOP Chair
- February 28 – Nominations due at Offices of the Executive Directors
- March – Nominations reviewed by regional Multistate Research or Multistate Activities Committees and recommendations submitted to regional associations
- March/April – Regional associations approve regional nominations at Spring meetings
- April/May - Regional associations review, edit and finalize their nomination prior to the final submission
- May 23 – Associations submit final regional nominations to ESCOP S&T Committee via the regional association supporting S&T Committee (**pdf and word document**)
- June – ESCOP S&T Committee reviews regional nominations in early June and submits recommendation for national winner to ESCOP Executive Committee
- June/July – ESCOP Executive Committee selects national winner
- July – National winner submitted to APLU and ESCOP Chair announces at Joint COPs
- July– S&T Executive Vice-chair collects information from regional associations and submits materials to APLU for booklet and program script; NIFA notified for Waterfront Center plaque inscription
- September – National winner announced at ESS meeting
- November – National award presentation at APLU Meeting

Nomination Format

(The nomination should be a very concise summary and must be in this format.)

Nominating Region: _____

Nominator: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project or Committee Number and Title: _____

Technical Committee Chair: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Administrative Advisor: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Project Summary (noting the following):

- Issue, problem or situation addressed (5%)
- Objectives (5%)
- Accomplishments (40%)
 - Outputs
 - Outcomes
 - Impacts (actual or anticipated)
- Added-value and synergistic activities across mission areas (30%)
 - Multi-disciplinary activities
 - Multi-functional integrated activities
 - Additional partnerships, associations or collaborations
- Evidence of multi-institutional and leveraged funding with examples of sources (15%)
- Participating institutions and units (5%) (**page 4 only**)

Nominations will be **no more than 3 single spaced pages** (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) plus a 1 page summary of Participating institutions and units (alphabetized) for a **total of 4 pages**. Regions may utilize other information in selecting their nominee. The final regional nomination should be submitted by email to the Offices of the regional Executive Directors, by **c.o.b. February 28, 2018**:

Chris Hamilton, North Central <christina.hamilton@wisc.edu>
David Leibovitz, Northeast <david_leibovitz@uri.edu>
Donna Pearce, South <donna_pearce@ncsu.edu>
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Item 10.0: NRSP Review Committee Update

Presenters: Doug Buhler, Jeff Jacobsen

Link to the NRSP_temp1 updated proposal (coming soon)

Summary of June 5 NRSP-RC Meeting

Midterm review conducted for NRSP3 and NRSP10, both excellent.

Recommendations for NRSP 1 Proposal Modification

1. No changes in NIMSS portion of proposal
2. Retain training component in impact writing portion, but target it specifically and only toward multistate project groups and administrative advisors in order to improve the usable content of multistate reports, particularly the termination report.
3. Consider utilizing various types of distance education, as well as face-to-face training with project groups or subsets, either during their annual meeting or at workshops with representatives of multiple projects.
4. Consider collaborations with communicators and writers in various colleges that are known to be skilled at writing impact statements and solicit their supervisor's support for their involvement in training multistate groups, particularly when it can be done locally.
5. Set benchmarks in the proposal for production of impact statements, training activities, and social media use so that progress can be assessed at the mid-term review.
6. Better define the respective roles and responsibilities of the Communication Specialist, student employee, and Program Director and how their activities are coordinated
7. No changes in the budget from the original proposal

Recommendations for NRSP 1 Steering Committee Actions

1. Consider whether or not the multistate impact writing and communication portion of NRSP 1 should be developed as a separate NRSP proposal at the next project renewal. The NRSP Review Committee would appreciate a recommendation on this question in time for the mid-term review.
2. Continue to encourage NIFA to do the necessary programming to better integrate NIMSS with REEport.

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Please go to next page to view slides for:

Exploring a Collaborative Working Space for Graduate Education in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Agbiosciences

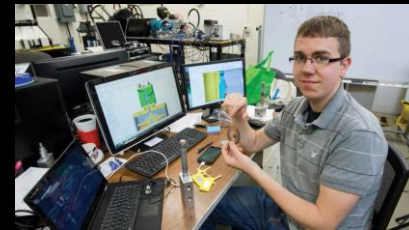
Shawn Donkin, Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education College of Agriculture,
Purdue University



Exploring a Collaborative Working Space for Graduate Education in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Agbiosciences

Shawn Donkin

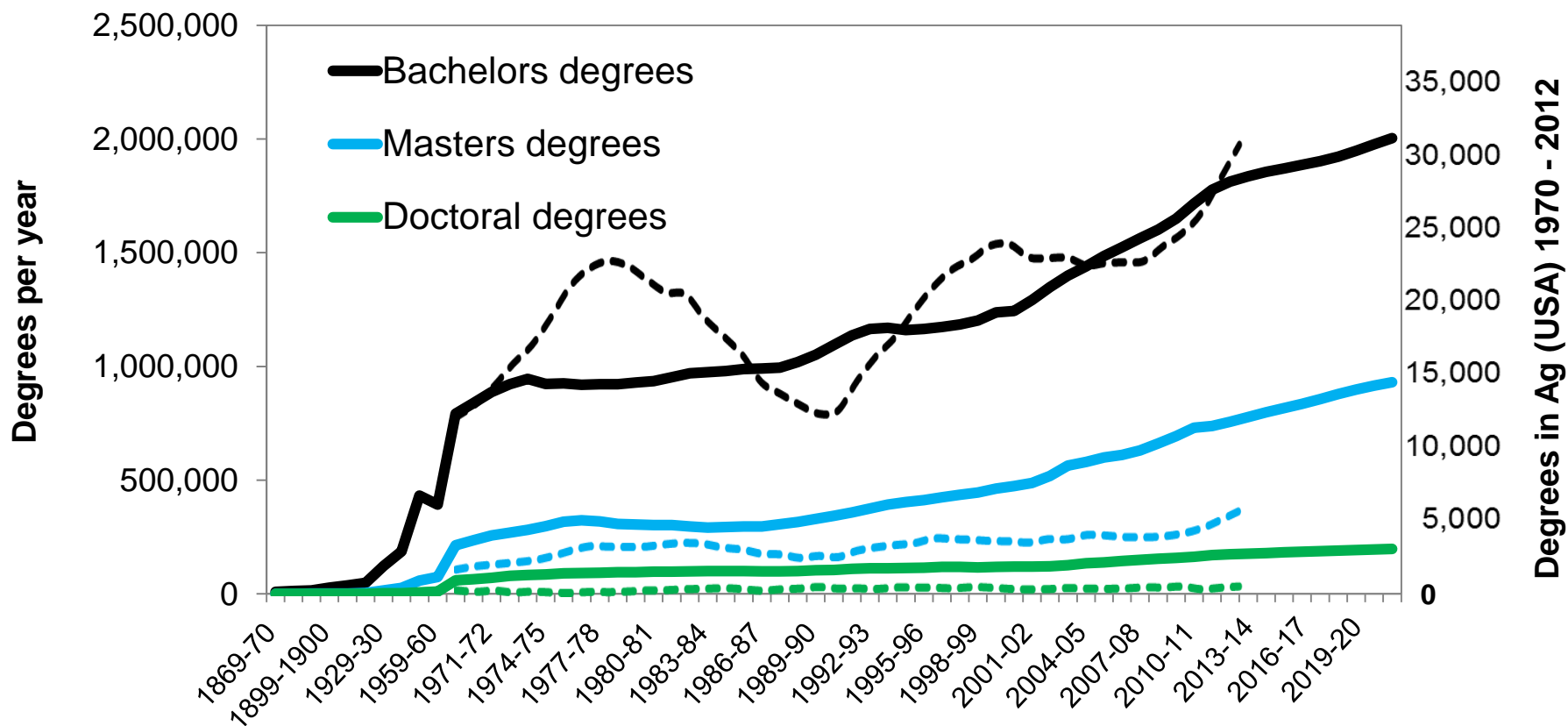
Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education
College of Agriculture, Purdue University



The United States' system of graduate education is a strategic national asset; Like all valuable assets, it must be attended to and nurtured in order to remain viable and strong. Other countries and regions of the world have recognized the value of graduate education as a vital component of economic development and are making investments accordingly.”

From: The Path Forward: The Future of Graduate Education in the United States (Council of Graduate Schools and Educational Testing Service, 2010, p. iv):

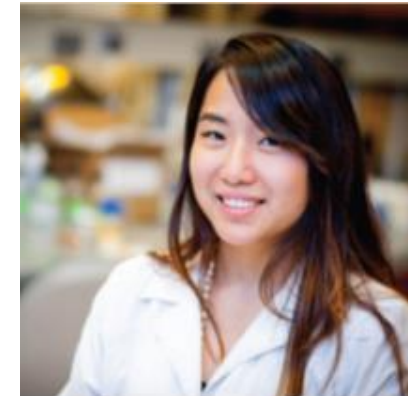
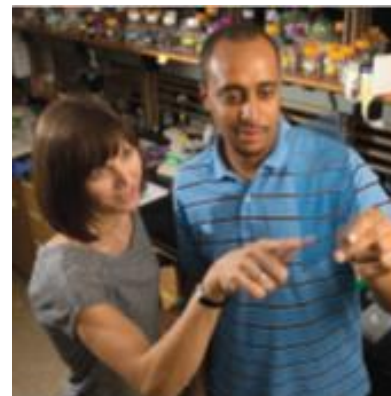
DEGREE AWARDS AND DEMANDS



US population (25+) attainment: 32% bachelors, 12% Masters, doctorate or professional, 3.3% Doctorate or professional, 1.8% Doctorate

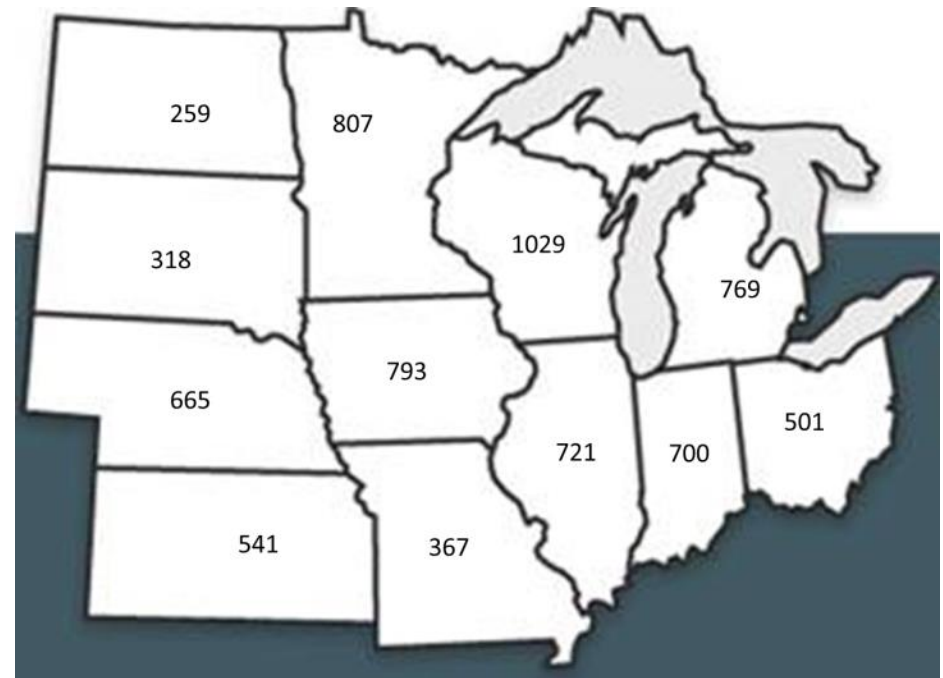
AES and Graduate Education are linked

- Seek solutions to problems and enabling discovery that is relevant to advances in agriculture, food, forestry and the environment
- Advance research goals established by USDA NIFA
- Administer policies and procedures associated with formula and competitively funded research projects
- Train the next generation of problem solvers and innovators (*intellectual and ethical stewards of the discipline*)



NCRA and Contribution to Graduate Education

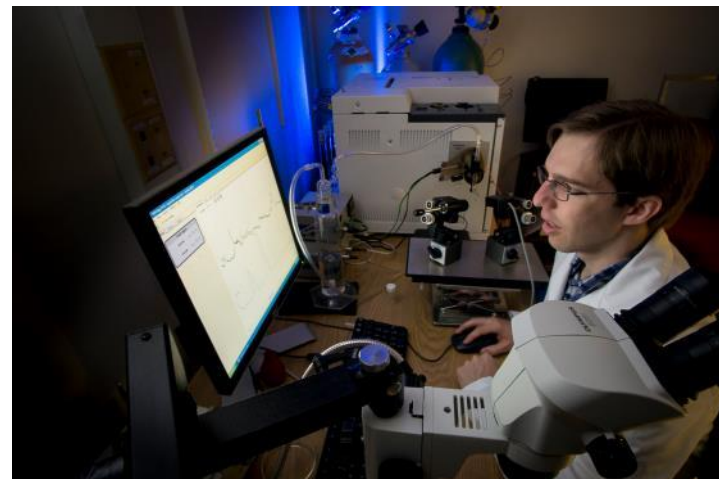
- NCRA institutions graduate enrollment is 7469 (52:48 MS:PhD)
- For most of us graduate students are ~ 20% of our CoAg students
- 33% of all grad students at LGU institutions
- 25% of all PhD in AgNR are awarded by NCRA institutions



<http://faeis.ag.vt.edu>, 2015 data

AgNR Graduate student profile 2015 (n=1439)

Male :Female	52:48
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	53.8
Marriage or like relationship	59.2
Bachelor's in same field as PhD (%)	42.2
Master's earned (%)	74.4
Age at doctorate (median years)	32.2
Time to doctorate (median years)	
From bachelor's	9.1
From graduate school start	7.3
From doctoral program start	5.2



Why Students Seek Graduate Education

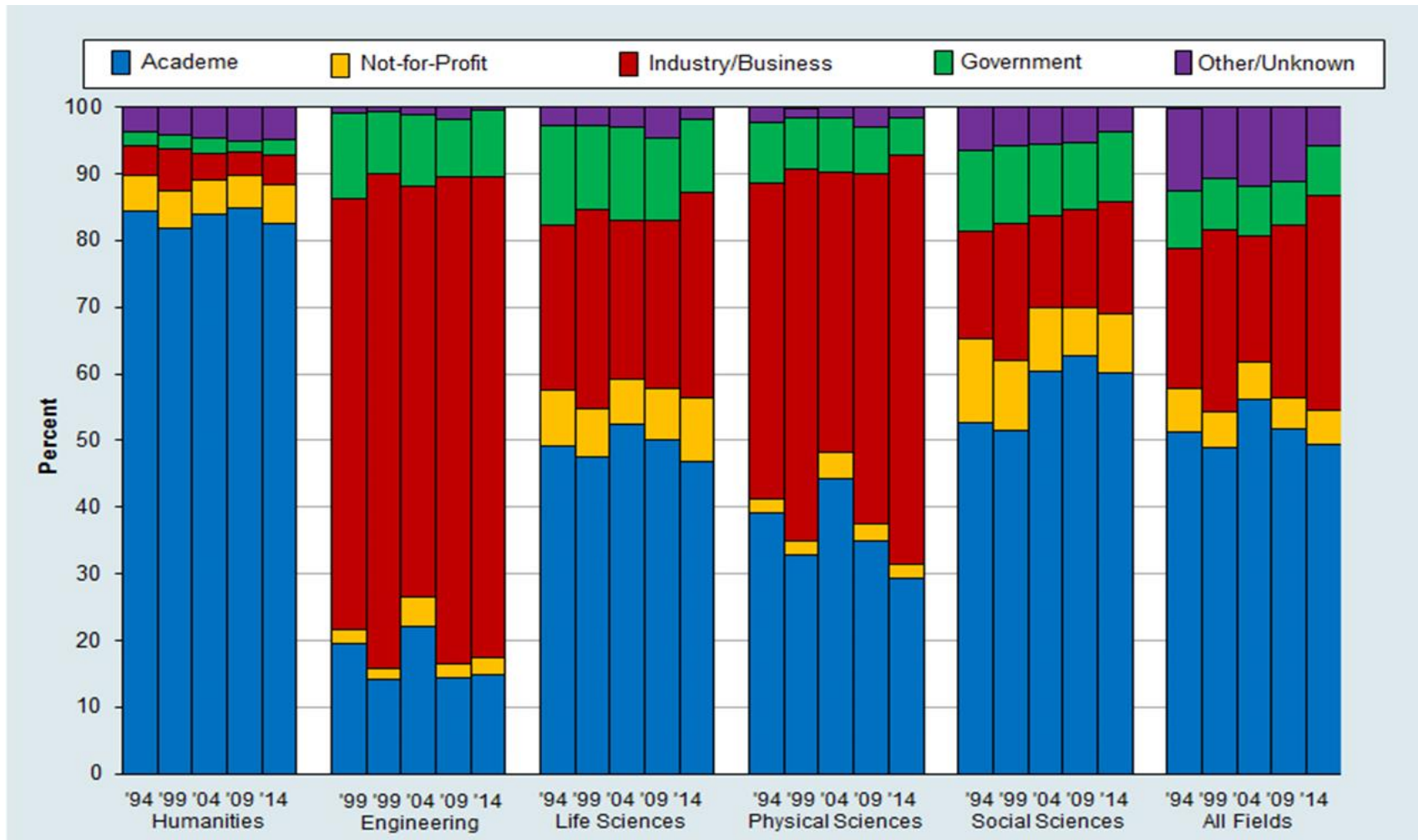
- Gain advanced skills
- Greater earning power
- Career advancement flexibility
- Research opportunities
- Teaching experiences
- Be part of the chain of knowledge
- Solve world problems
- Accept an academic challenge
- Realization of interests
- Personal and professional growth
- Recognition and credibility
- Learn from experts
- Become experts



What we want our students to be able to do

Advance Knowledge and Scholarship	Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the current and historical theories, concepts and models that define the discipline and understand the major contextual issues and limitations for the current state of knowledge.
Demonstrate Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Demonstrate the ability to think critically and creatively, and to integrate and apply knowledge to solving problems.
Exhibit Ethical Conduct	Demonstrate knowledge and integrity necessary to conduct research in an honest, ethical, responsible and transparent manner including demonstrating appropriate methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation.
Communicate Effectively	Demonstrate skills in scholarly communication, applied in oral, text and digital formats in a manner consistent with the highest standards in their discipline.
Develop Professionalism	Demonstrate professionalism by exercising objectivity, respecting opposing scientific views, developing multicultural competency, displaying scientific integrity, and showing the ability to responsibly disseminate scholarly information to a spectrum of audiences and stakeholders.

Where do students go



<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsf16300/data-tables.cfm>

What Employers want



How well are we doing?

- Only 44% of US institutions report having any formal program for graduate students to develop skills for non-academic careers



Survey of 226 institutions of graduate deans, directors of graduate study, and professional development directors (2014-2016)

CoA spring 2017 series

- **Criticism: Is it constructive? Giving and receiving feedback effectively**
- **Maintain work-life balance**
- **Make LinkedIn work for you!**
- **Convert your CV into a resume**
- **Elevator Pitch and Networking Skills**
- **Ace Your Interview**
- **Negotiation Skills**
- **Developing Resilience**
- **Personal Finance**



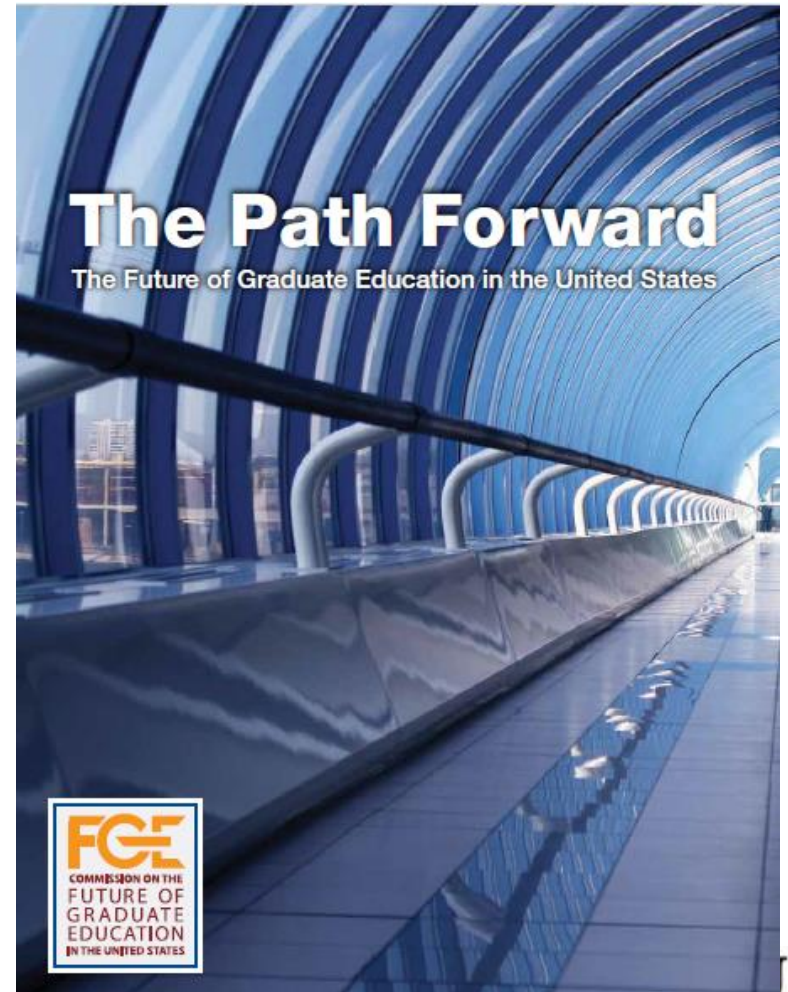
Spring 2017
Graduate Workshops & Presentations

NEXT EVENT: **Criticism: Is it constructive? Giving and receiving feedback effectively**
Wednesday, January 18 | 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Deans' Auditorium, 2nd floor, Phibbs Hall

Check the Calendar

Maintaining work-life balance during graduate school Thursday, January 20 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM Room 222AB, Graduate Student Center Presenter: Jennifer West, Staff Personnel, OUP	Networking Skills & Elevator Pitch Wednesday, February 1 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM Deans' Auditorium 2nd floor, Phibbs Hall
Assessing the power of LinkedIn Thursday, January 20 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM Deans' Auditorium 2nd floor, Phibbs Hall	Ace your interview Thursday, February 2 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM R22C 222AB, Graduate Student Center
Convert your CV into a resume Tuesday, January 24 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM Deans' Auditorium 2nd floor, Phibbs Hall	Negotiation Strategies Tuesday, February 7 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM R22C 222AB, Graduate Student Center
	Developing Resilience Saturday, March 7 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM R22C 222AB, Graduate Student Center

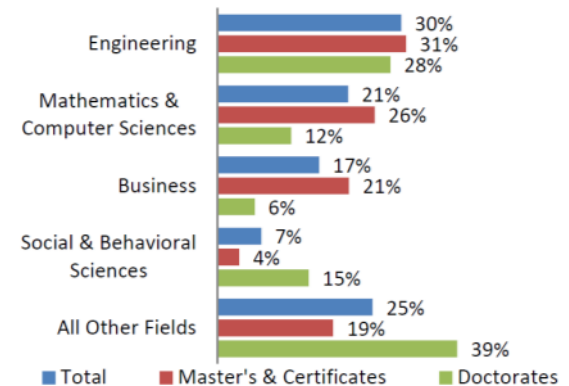
The global competitiveness of the US and capacity for innovation hinges fundamentally on a strong system of graduate education.



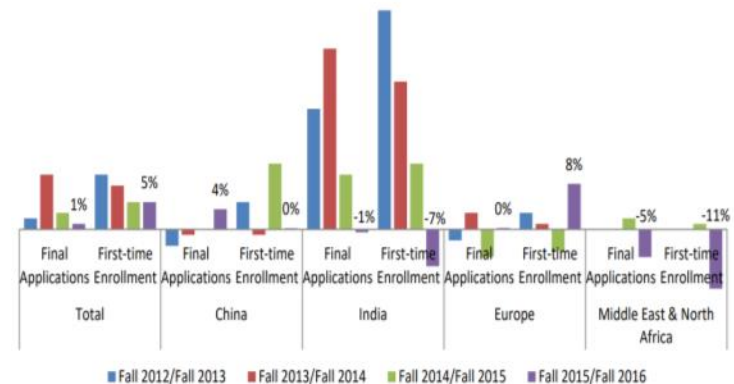
Trends and Threats

- Other countries recognize graduate education and human capital development as engine of economic competitiveness
- International students have increasing options
 - China and India are investing substantially in graduate programs
 - Canada, Australia, and others are more welcoming to internationals
 - For international students educated in the US increasingly find viable career options in their home countries
- Europe and China now produce more doctorates in the sciences and engineering than the U.S.

Distribution of Total International Graduate Applications by Selected Field of Study (838,627 of 1.8M applications; Ag and Biol Sci .are 5% of total)



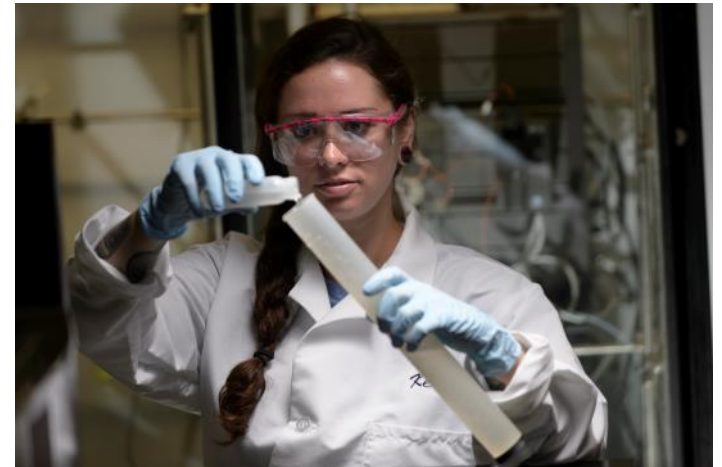
Data Source: Council of Graduate Schools, *International Graduate Applications and Enrollment, Fall 2016, Appendix Table A.1*



Distribution of Total International Graduate Applications by Selected Region/Country of Origin, Fall 2016

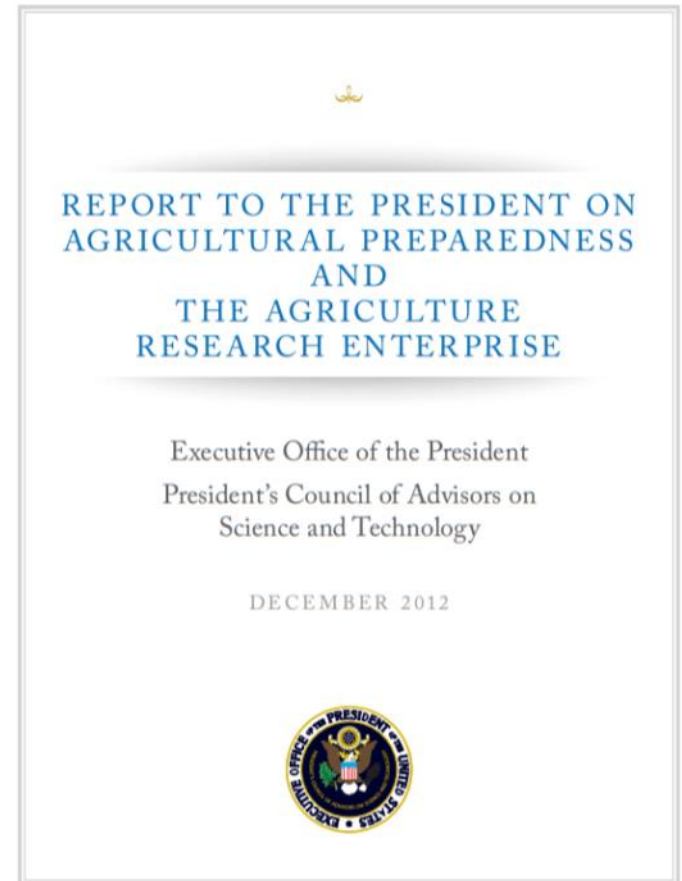
Trends and Threats

- Students enter graduate school without good understanding of career options
- Many leave graduate school still lacking good knowledge of career options
- Graduate program leaders recognize importance of illuminating career pathways
- Graduate program administrators are dissatisfied with ability to track career outcomes
- Tracking impact of formula and competitive funds on graduate education



Trends and Threats

An innovation ecosystem for agricultural research with additional research support, training and workforce development, and research infrastructure.



Examples of Collaborative Work Spaces

- A consortium offering distance education programs (since 1994).
- Students choose a home university where they apply, are admitted, register for courses, and receive their degree or certificate.
- Students pay one common price per credit hour regardless of which university is their degree-granting institution.



Examples of Collaborative Work Spaces

- **CourseShare** allows students to take less commonly taught language courses offered at other Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions from a distance, eliminating the need to temporarily relocate.
- **Traveling Scholar Program** allows doctoral students to spend up to a full academic year pursuing specialized courses of study and research at other Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions.



Support for Graduate Education

NSF Primary Issues affecting Graduate Education (337+62 M)

- Broadening participation.
- Expanding skills through professional development opportunities
- Leverage private and public partnerships to improve career outcomes.
- Setting a research agenda to understand funding models of graduate education
- Engaging institutions and faculty to support evidence-based practices

USDA Goals for Graduate Education (3M)

- *Advance science and promote innovation by supporting graduate (and postgraduate education) to cultivate future leaders who are able to address and solve emerging agricultural challenges of the 21st century*

Goals and Strategies Going Forward

- Better articulate the impact of graduate education
- Explore collaboration and innovation
- Develop alliances that increase support for AgNR grad education
- Broaden the scope of opportunities for graduate training



Questions to be Addressed

- Can we provide experiences for grad students that better prepare them for careers?
- Is there a unique opportunity in the NCRA region?
- Can we better assess impact?
- Can resources be leveraged (Center for Ag Innovation and Convergent Science)?
- What are the channels to explore and develop





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