

Agenda Brief: Association of Research Directors (ARD)

Presenter: Dr. Alton Thompson, ARD Chair

Background Information:

The ARD held its Summer Meeting at North Carolina A&T State University June 25 – 27, 2008. This meeting followed the AEA/ARD Land Grant Conference which had been held on June 8 – 11, 2008 at the Memphis Convention Center in Memphis, TN. The theme of the ARD and AEA conference was “The 1890 Land Grant System: Addressing Universal Issues through Science and Engagement” and the purpose of this second joint conference was to provide a forum for interactions and subsequent partnership commitments within the 1890 Land Grant System in four areas of national priority: Youth Development, Food Safety, Obesity and Wellness, and Renewable Energy. The ARD has now begun vigorous planning of the 15th Biennial Research Symposium, which the a primary aim of continuing the momentum of the 2008 AEA/ARD Conference. The goal of the 1890 Research Symposium is “To provide a forum for interactions, knowledge sharing, building networks for expanded partnerships and to showcase the talents and achievements of the 1890 community.” The first ARD symposium was held in 1976 to showcase the varied accomplishments of the 1890 research scientists and students and the ARD looks forward to repeating the success of the Fourteenth (14th) Research Symposium which engaged 633 registrants. The topic areas for the 2009 symposium are: Food Safety Human Nutrition and Health, Renewable Resources and Environmental Stewardship, Small Scale Agriculture and Rural Development, Emerging Technologies, and Human Sciences. It will be held at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA on March 28 – April 1, 2009. For more information, please see www.ard1890symposium.org.

During this year’s NASULGC meeting the gavel will be passed from the 2006-2008 Chair, Dr. Alton Thompson of N.C. A&T State University to the 2008 – 2010 ARD Chair, Dr. Orlando McMeans of West Virginia State University.