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## BLUE LETTER

February 2019

No. 3802



**STACEY  
MCCULLOUGH**

Assistant Director for Community  
And Economic Development

# Community and Economic Development

## Making A Difference In Many Ways

I found myself getting emotional when I recently spoke to students at the Clinton School of Public Service about how rewarding it is to work for Extension. We all work hard and our jobs can be exhausting, but our work is incredibly meaningful. As I've welcomed new team members to our Extension family this year, their excitement and surprise at all the amazing things we do reminds me of how special our jobs are. I truly hope you feel the same.

Enough mush. This is my chance to brag about the fantastic community and economic development, or CED, work taking place.

First, I want to recognize our fabulous county agents. Regardless of title or assignment, community development is part of the job. The most frequent evidence of this comes from reading our county impact reports where CED impacts are demonstrated through volunteerism and service projects performed by our Master Gardener, Extension Homemaker, Wellness Ambassador, 4-H and other clientele. These efforts make a tremendous impact on quality of life and place and often have economic impacts too.

While most of these success stories include leadership development, I'm very interested in taking programs to the

next level to create more impact. One idea is a leadership academy. It could bring individuals from these different groups together for training, and have them participate in county cohorts to identify opportunities for working together. Often our clientele in different programs don't interact with each other, which seems like a missed opportunity. If you have ideas about this or other ways we can add value to programs, I would love to hear them.

Other county CED success stories include farmers' markets, Annie's Project, community gardens, cemetery restoration, a law enforcement training and shooting facility, agricultural awareness, county fair improvements, systems-based approaches to community health and water quality.

There are also examples of larger-scale programs incorporating multiple aspects of community and economic development. Sometimes these involve strong county-state collaboration through programs such as Breakthrough Solutions. Products of Breakthrough Solutions include Kickstart Cleveland County, Moving Manila Forward, Hempstead County & Hope Home-town Development, Arkansas Regional Coalition of the Ouachitas, Baxter County Forward, Growing Corning Together and the Northwest Arkansas Growing Communities Conference. Sometimes efforts involve other partnering

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**U of A**  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
*University of Arkansas System*



# Two New Rice Varieties Introduced

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture just released two new Clearfield® rice varieties.

These new rice varieties will help Arkansas rice growers boost their production and improve their bottom line. Both varieties contain the gene for resistance to imadazolinone herbicides, which will allow them to be used in the Clearfield® production system.

CLL15 (16AR1111) is an early-maturing, semidwarf long-grain Clearfield® variety with excellent grain yield, good milling quality and good resistance to blast disease. In Arkansas statewide trials during 2016-2018, CLL15 has out-yielded current CL variety CL151, CL153, and CL172 by 5-10 bushels per acre. CLL15 has the typical southern long-grain cooking quality.

The other new release, CLM04 (16AR1030), is an early-maturing, short stature medium-grain Clearfield® variety with excellent grain yield and good grain quality.

On average, CLM04 has an approximate 10-15 bushels-per-acre-yield advantage over CL272, and has a similar yield potential as conventional medium-grain variety Jupiter and Titan. CLM04 has the typical medium-grain cooking quality, low chalkiness plump kernel size similar to Titan. ■



(Pictured L-R) CLM04 (16AR1030) and CLL15 (16AR1111) are two new and exciting Clearfield® rice varieties.

## Social Skills

**U of A** DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
University of Arkansas System



**Beginning February 21, 2019 at 9 a.m.,** Social Skills will replace OU Open Office Hours, which has merged with Hump Day Hacks.

Social Skills is an hour-long, informal, drop-in style session that will recur the third Thursday of each month. These sessions will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and get help with your social media accounts, as well as learn new tips and tricks from our social media pros. ■

# Coming Together for Racial Understanding Pilot Initiative

Teams from 20 states are the first cohort group of Coming Together for Racial Understanding. The purpose of the program is to build capacity within Cooperative Extension Service in order to help communities engage in civil dialogues around racial issues.

Arkansas Extension representatives Blanca Hernandez, Teki Hunt-Winston and Laura Hendrix participated in a week long training designed to prepare participants to build capacity within their home state's CES, working across the boundaries of the land-grant universities. The team will use a multi-phase process to build capacity among Cooperative Extension Service professionals to fully participate in dialogues around issues of race, in order to ultimately provide support to communities ready to use dialogues to start the important work of racial healing. The 20 pilot teams will be working collaboratively to measure impacts from this initiative under the leadership of the Southern Rural Development Center. ■



Laura Hendrix, Blanca Hernandez and Teki Hunt Winston represented Arkansas Extension at the Coming Together Training for Racial Understanding train-the-trainer event last year and will launch the program in Arkansas in 2019.

## Weather Reports Available



Want to get information about severe weather straight to your inbox? Email Mary Hightower at [mhightower@uaex.edu](mailto:mhightower@uaex.edu), to be included on the distribution list to receive the latest severe weather forecasts from the National Weather Service. ■

### New publications:

(You know you want to look.)

[uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx](http://uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx)





# It's Community Garden Time with the Soybean Science Challenge!

The Soybean Science Challenge has kicked off its 2019 Community Garden promotion with 21 community gardens already signed up to grow vegetable grade edamame soybeans in their plots. The soybeans are donated by the Natural Soybean and Grain Alliance. Soybeans are easy to grow, a complete protein and are a welcome addition to any food dish. In order for a garden to receive soybean seeds, the garden needs to be educational/school related, 4H based or serve the food banks or other hunger-related projects in the area in which they are planted. Anyone whose garden fulfills the requirements and wants to plant edamame can go to [www.uaex.edu/soywhatsup](http://www.uaex.edu/soywhatsup) and click on the 'grow your own protein' icon (not the seed store icon). The icon opens directly into the fillable PDF site. Complete and send to [dyoung@uaex.edu](mailto:dyoung@uaex.edu). If you have any problems with the registration form, just contact Diedre Young and she will help you complete it.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the U of A System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

For more information, contact Dr. Julie Robinson, [jrobinson@uaex.edu](mailto:jrobinson@uaex.edu) or Diedre Young [dyoung@uaex.edu](mailto:dyoung@uaex.edu). ■

Charlie's Community Garden  
Coordinator Sandy DeCoursey,  
SJ Urban Farmers Bobby Burrows  
and Travis DeLongchamp



## The Soybean Science Challenge Booth

Soybean Science Challenge Coordinator Diedre Young and Dr. Lynn Wilson hosted a booth at the annual Arkansas Soybean Association meeting at the Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart on Jan. 16.

Young and Wilson handed out edamame snacks, various soybean promotional items and talked with farmers, suppliers and meeting presenters about how the Soybean Science Challenge brings soybean research into the classroom. Booth visitors learned that Soybean



Science Challenge cash awards are presented to students and teachers at regional and state science fairs, and that the new 7E and NGSS aligned lessons are now available online to teachers. Young emphasized how the Soybean Science Challenge materials and resources contribute to agriculture education and are a valuable classroom asset to teachers and students. ■

# 4-H State Officers in New Orleans



Recently, the Arkansas 4-H State officer team had the opportunity for the second year in a row to attend the National Farm Bureau Convention. This year Farm Bureau celebrated its 100th National Convention in New Orleans. This was the first trip to New Orleans for all of the officers, and they enjoyed many new cultural experiences from food to people. The officers were able to meet and speak with many of the Arkansas Farm Bureau delegation as well as meet with other youth leaders from

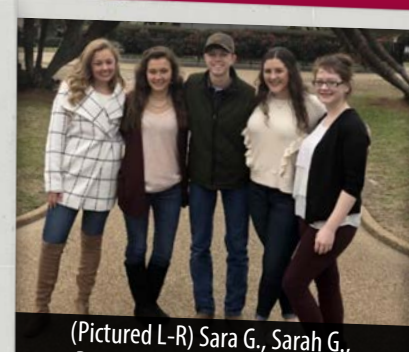
around the country and attend several educational sessions. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and the President Donald Trump also spoke with the 4-Hers who were able to watch both from the VIP area. The officers were able to also take in some tourist experiences around Jackson Square and had their first beignets at Café du Monde. Overall it was tremendous leadership opportunity that both 4-H and Farm Bureau were able to provide for the state officer team. ■



(Pictured L-R) Jessica G., Sara G., Sarah G., Brent C. and Keilah B.



(Pictured L-R) Jesse Bocksnick, Brent C., Keilah B., Sara G., Randy Veatch ARFB President, Jessica G., Sarah G. and Priscella Thomas-Scott.



(Pictured L-R) Sara G., Sarah G., Brent C., Jessica G. and Keilah B. visiting Jackson Square.

## 4-H Parliamentary Procedure Team Achievement

Congratulations to the Washington County 4-H Parliamentary Procedure Team earning National 4-H Reserve Champion Team at the Western National Roundup Competition in Denver, Co. More than 1,110 youth and adults from more than 33 states and Alberta, Canada, attended the 99th Western National Roundup, on Jan. 9-13, 2019. The theme "Find Your Spark" was aimed at helping participants find their passion to help them and the world grow in a positive way.

Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, great-grandson of Dwight. D. Eisenhower, was the keynote speaker at the banquet and shared how everyone can make a difference through service. Participants heard additional guest speakers, attended workshops, had their competitions and visited the National Western Stock Show. This offered opportunities to build communication, team building and leadership development skills. ■



(Pictured L-R) Nick P., Weston P., Zoë A., Anna Goff (coach), Abigail N., Robert M. and Tor S.



# Students Present Research at Paul Noland Graduate Student Awards Competition

On Jan. 10, Department of Animal Science masters and doctoral candidates presented their research at the 2019 Paul Noland Graduate Student Awards Competition. The competition judges students in three areas: abstract, oral presentation and curriculum vitae. One M.S. student and one Ph.D. student are awarded a \$750 travel stipend for regional and national research meetings.



Winning M.S. candidate,  
Ruchita Uttarwar

Ruchita Uttarwar, whose research was titled *Comparative evaluation of four RNA extraction kits in the isolation of viral RNA from fecal, nasal and tissue samples* was selected as the winning M.S. candidate. Ruchita Uttarwar is a graduate research student under the supervision of Dr. Jiangchao Zhao, and has completed her Veterinary and

Animal Science study (B.V.Sc and A.H) from Nagpur Veterinary College and Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Science University, both in India. Xiaofan (Sheena) who presented research titled *Lifelong dynamics of the swine gut microbiome: from birth to market* was selected as the winning Ph.D. candidate. Xiaofan started her M.S. program in fall 2012 in Dr. Maxwell's lab at the University of Arkansas. After receiving her M.S. degree, she chose to continue with her studies as a Ph.D. student. Her academic background is in cellular biology, swine gut microbiome, gut health and microbiome cultureomics.

The award commemorates the legacy of Dr. Paul R. Noland, an emeritus professor of animal science at the University of Arkansas. Noland served as head of the Department of Animal Science from 1988 until his retirement in 1994. He joined the faculty in 1951 after receiving his doctoral degree from Cornell University. Dr. Noland died in 2015 at age 91. ■

## Buy Local, Eat Local.

## Why Not Print Local?

You support your local farmer, your local crafter and your local retailer. Why not support your local printer? If you have postcards, fliers or other handouts, the Extension Print Shop should be your first stop.

Jon Flaxman, print shop director, wants to do a little myth-busting about our in-house print shop:

**MYTH:** The print shop takes too long.

**BUSTED:** The average turnaround time for a print job in house is three days, and most jobs take less time.

**MYTH:** It's too expensive to print in-house.

**BUSTED:** On average, the print shop is 30 percent less expensive than its competitors.

**MYTH:** The print shop is too limited in its abilities.

**BUSTED:** The print shop offers a variety of binding styles, including "perfect" or flat spines, spiral binding and a variety of special printing effects such as gloss or raised/textured printing.

**MYTH:** All print jobs need to be put up for bid.

**BUSTED:** Any sized print job can be handled by the print shop. No bidding necessary.

Also, it's no myth that the print shop has a distinguished roster of local clients too, including the UA System president, the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, the state Health Department and the Department of Education. It is the preferred print shop of the Communications Department.

If you have questions about working with the print shop, contact Jon Flaxman at 671-2286. ■

Director of Printing Services  
Jon Flaxman



# UAPB Forestry Program Receives National Recognition

**Also Announces Expansion to More Arkansas Counties**



Kandi Williams, outreach coordinator for the "Keeping it in the Family" Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Program, holds the L.A. Potts Success Stories award

The "Keeping it in the Family" (KIITF) Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention (SLFR) Program was one of three projects recognized recently at the 76th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference at Tuskegee University. Developed by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Small Farm Program, KIITF

Howard, Little River, Nevada, Ouachita, Union and Lafayette counties.

"Targeting more counties will ensure we are providing resources and support to a greater number of Arkansas' African-American forestland owners," he said. "Forestry educational meetings will be conducted in the counties, which will help landowners develop sustainable management plans for their land." ■

was honored for its success in educating African-American forest landowners about how to properly manage forestland and apply conservation practices to improve the land's sustainability and value.

During the conference's L.A. Potts Luncheon and Success Stories meeting, Alexis Cole, UAPB Extension associate, accepted the award for Dr. Henry English, head of the Small Farm Program and KIITF project director. After receiving the award, Dr. English announced the expansion of the KIITF program to ten counties across southern Arkansas, including Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleveland, Dallas, Drew, Jefferson, Miller, Pike and Sevier counties.

Originally, the program focused on eight counties in southwest Arkansas – Columbia, Hempstead,

## Upcoming Tech Tuesday Webinars



### UPCOMING TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS

**Tuesday, March 12: Best Practices for Presentations**  
(Sam Boyster and Amy Cole)

**Tuesday, April 9: Part#1 Video Series – Shooting Your Video**  
(Kerry Rodtnick, Ricky Blair and Nick Kordsmeier)

Second Tuesday of every month,  
starting at 9:00 a.m.

To view the recordings, visit  
<https://uaex.edu/techtuesdays>



# Produce Food Safety at SSAWG

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service sponsored this year's Southern Sustainable Agricultural Working Group, SSAWG, conference held in Little Rock. The Produce Food Safety team led a grower training in partnership with the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and National Farmers Union. Dr. Amanda Philyaw Perez led several teaching modules for the first day of training. Participants experienced an On Farm Readiness Review, OFRR, at Heifer Ranch on the second day. These OFRRs are a mock inspection that our Produce Food Safety Team at Extension will be doing for farmers to prepare them for the FDA-required inspections.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department will begin inspections this spring. We are beginning to schedule OFRRs and will be doing them for the larger produce farms who request them in front of their Agriculture Department inspection. We also have additional PSA trainings scheduled for Feb. 13 at the Little Rock State Extension Office, March 14 at the Batesville Extension Office, and April 16 at the Eureka Springs Best Western. The cost of these trainings and the travel costs will be covered for county agents, associates and specialists. Contact us at [www.uaex.edu/arkansas-produce-safety](http://www.uaex.edu/arkansas-produce-safety) to register. ■



## APAC Has a New Name!

We changed our name from APAC to Arkansas PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center). Don't worry, our mission has not changed. We are still here to help Arkansas-based small businesses with their government contracting needs. Over the next few weeks, we will be making the transition to our new name Arkansas PTAC.

You may notice changes to our website as well as our logo and e-mail address reflecting our new name. E-mails will be coming from [PTAC@uaex.edu](mailto:PTAC@uaex.edu) in the near future so please make sure to check your spam folders and accept all communication from us to keep updated on all events and government contracting related content! Our new website will be <http://uaex.edu/PTAC>.

Please note that if someone tries to enter our old e-mail or website, they will be redirected. We appreciate any

assistance in getting the message out to businesses in your counties. Feel free to contact program director Melanie Berman at [msberman@uaex.edu](mailto:msberman@uaex.edu) to schedule Arkansas PTAC trainings in your counties. ■



NEW LOGO



OLD LOGO



# Shared Grounds Project to Revitalize Three County Fairgrounds

Recently awarded a three-year USDA AMS Local Food Promotion Program grant, Drs. Amanda Perez, UACES, and Renee Threlfall, UA Food Science, will implement a project to convert fairground concession stands into shared use kitchen incubators and produce distribution centers in Cleveland, Searcy and Woodruff (Three County Fairground) counties. Advisory boards have been established for each site consisting of county agents and members of the local Fair Board, Chambers of Commerce, county government, banks and farm and food businesses. Site modification plans are underway as well as fundraising to cover construction activities that are not payable under the USDA grant program. If successful, this project could provide an innovative model for rural areas seeking economic opportunities that also develop local food systems in their communities. Dogwood Hills Guest Farm, an agri-tourism business in the Ozarks, plans to utilize the Searcy County Fairground site to increase distribution of their farm-fresh products. The operation was accepted to the Delta I Fund to further on-farm product development and allow guests to bring home their experience on the farm. For additional information, contact project manager Angela Gardner at [agardner@uaex.edu](mailto:agardner@uaex.edu). ■



Left: Cleveland County Fairground site visit, John Swenson (AR Food Innovation Center), Louis Nevala (AR Department of Health), Roy Phillips (Cleveland Co. Fair Board President)  
Right: Farmstead cooking demonstration, Dogwood Hills Guest Farm educator and clients



## Community and Economic Development

### Continued

organizations such as Kickstart Alma, Kick Start Sheridan, Uncommon Communities and Community Conversations.

Our LeadAR program is halfway through Class 18 and will accept applications for Class 19 this spring. LeadAR helps Arkansans gain a deeper understanding of critical issues facing our state and expand their leadership skills. To enhance learning, we strive for diversity among class members with statewide representation from agricultural, rural and urban backgrounds. Extension employees are eligible to apply. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit, check out our website.

One of our other programs, APAC, is now the Arkansas PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center). The program helps companies sell goods and services to local, state and federal government agencies. Last year, we helped Arkansas companies receive contracts valued at \$128.6 million. This translates to over 2,500 jobs in Arkansas. If you know anyone who owns or manages a business in Arkansas, connect them with our team.

Did you know our department also provides local ballot issue education? Over the last six months, we've partnered with county agents and officials for issues in Lincoln, Sharp, Fulton and Stone counties. The 2018 statewide ballot program was a huge success. Among the highlights, we had 331,611 page views on the main page (Sept. 1-Nov. 14) with 220,546 unique visitors. We printed 32,000 voter guides compared to 23,000 in 2016. In evaluations, agents said they wished they had ordered an additional 18,800 voter guides combined.

We're also piloting the CREATE BRIDGES program in two regions in Arkansas (Fulton-Izard-Sharp and Howard-Little River-Sevier counties). This is a multi-state initiative to strengthen rural businesses and workforce involved in retail, accommodations, tourism and entertainment sectors.

Most recently, we published the 2019 Rural Profile of Arkansas, now available online. We are always adding to our government finance resources, including new online courses for county agents and the public.

I'm already out of room, which reminds me that we need to do a better job highlighting CED programs and impacts. To help with this, we are showcasing local and state success stories each week in our blog, <http://uaex.edu/CEDblog>, and promoting them through social media. I invite you to follow our journey and help spread the word about how Extension is making a difference. ■

# Division of Agriculture Awards

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FERNDAL, Ark. — The highest achievements in research, outreach, education, support and other efforts were recognized Friday during the Arkansas Agriculture Awards, honoring excellence from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural Food and Life Sciences.

The annual event honors outstanding work of division faculty and staff toward supporting and improving agricultural industries and life in Arkansas and beyond.

“There’s nothing like starting the year on a high note – recognizing the individuals and teams for the excellent work they do for Arkansas year in and year out,” said Mark Cochran, vice president-agriculture for the University of Arkansas System and the head of the Division of Agriculture.

## DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE HONORS

Cathy Howard, a research technologist at the Southwest Research and Extension Center, and Kelley Cochran, administrative support supervisor for the Cooperative Extension Service Delta District, both received the Classified Support Personnel Award. Howard began working at SWREC in 1984 as an hourly worker and later as a secretary for nearly 18 years before becoming

involved in the center’s research activities. Today, she helps manage the processing and analysis of up to 5,000 samples each year in the nematode lab.



(Pictured L-R) Dr. Cartwright, Blair Griffin and Mark Cochran. Blair Griffin accepts the John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award

In her 19 years with the Cooperative Extension Service, Cochran has advanced from accounting technician to administrative support supervisor. She assists with the administrative and program operations in all 25 counties of the Delta District, including handling performance evaluations, reports and

files for the district’s 133 staff members.

## JOHN W. WHITE AWARDS

The John W. White Awards are the centerpieces of the awards program. This year’s extension staff and faculty winners were:

Karen Ballard, professor of program evaluation in the program and staff development department, received the John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award. Ballard provides support to extension administrators, state faculty and agents for statewide program planning and evaluation. She also created the Arkansas Soybean Science Challenge, which brings agriculture to science education in the classroom.

Blair Griffin, Johnson County Extension staff chair,

*(Continued Page 11)*



# Division of Agriculture Awards

Continued

received the John W. White Outstanding County Extension Educator Award. Griffin is a 31-year veteran of the Cooperative Extension Service. Since joining the Division of Agriculture, he has created many programs, including the Tri County Forage Meeting with Johnson, Franklin and Logan counties and the beginning beef production short course “Basic Beef.”

The Division of Agriculture’s dicamba team received the John W. White Outstanding Team Award. When a trickle of complaints about off-target dicamba herbicide applications turned into a torrent, the team mobilized research and extension resources to investigate the situation and share that information with growers, the public and the Arkansas State Plant Board.

The team was comprised of Tom Barber, Jason Davis, Jason Norsworthy and Jeremy Ross of the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences; Bob Scott, director



Jill Rucker receives the Jack G. Justus Award for Teaching Excellence from Mark Cochran



Dean Deacue Fields, of Bumpers College, with Legal/Compliance Assistant Tonisha Thorpe

of the Rice Research and Extension Center; Ples Spradley, department of plant pathology; Julie Robinson, program and staff development; and Mary Hightower, Division of Agriculture communications.

You can find all of the award photos here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmtSFBsG>. ■

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

- Mar. 14** (evening) – Benton – Saline County Cattleman’s Club
- Mar. 17** (afternoon) – Little Rock – 4-H Arkansas Shooting Sports Championship-Seniors
- Mar. 18** (evening) – Prescott – Pesticide Applicator’s Restricted Use Pesticide License Training
- Mar. 20** (morning) – Jefferson County – AR Healthy Life - Lifestyles Involving Food & Exercise
- Mar. 25** (evening) – Dover – 4-H Art Club Meeting
- Mar. 26** (morning) – Piney Grove – Extension Get Fit Class
- Mar. 28** (morning) – Jefferson County – Extension Homemakers Craft Workshop
- Mar. 30** (afternoon) – Ozark – The Best Care Training

### APRIL

- April 1** (morning) – Fordyce – DEEP (Diabetes Education) Class
- April 3** (afternoon) – Ashdown – Senior Get Fit Exercise Class
- April 6** (all day) – Saline County – Best Care Super Session
- April 6** (afternoon) – Washington, DC – National 4-H Conference
- April 8** (evening) – Little River County – Little Recipe Club
- April 9** (afternoon) – Jefferson County – Mediterranean Cooking
- April 10** (afternoon) – Ashley County – Smarties 4-H Club
- April 13** (afternoon) – Backyard Poultry Online Course
- April 16** (afternoon) – Batesville – Field day at Livestock and Forestry Center

Go to <https://calendar.uaex.edu/cal/main/showMain.rdo> to see all of the upcoming events!

# LeadAR Class 18 Hosts Fifth Seminar

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The LeadAR Class 18 members convened in Northwest Arkansas for the fifth LeadAR Seminar entitled Developing Leaders for A Healthier, More Educated Arkansas - Jan. 24-26. Over the course of three days, LeadAR class members explored the topics of health and education through a variety of contexts, speakers, panelists and discussions. The seminar

featured research from Dr. Mark Peterson with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension, Community and Economic Development, explored the education workforce pipeline and examined ways for community leaders to interact with this issue. Dr. Deacue Fields, Dean and Associate Vice President Academic Programs Dale Bumper College of Agriculture, unpacked the University's commitment to attracting and retaining talent through understanding the differences in generations.



The class participated in interactive tours of both Tyson and Pea Ridge Public Schools before an alumni social in Bentonville. Other esteemed guests included the Arkansas Surgeon General, Dr. Gregory Bledsoe, who spoke about the importance of innovation in healthcare and Trisha Montague, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrator of Arkansas Children's Hospital, who examined how collaboration between hospitals and communities can help solve social issues. Commissioner Johnny Key visited with the class on the final day and answered questions related to the current state of education in Arkansas and ways leaders can play a role in shaping the future. Seminar 6 will be Mar. 28-30 and will explore community and economic development. ■

kansas Children's Hospital, who examined how collaboration between hospitals and communities can help solve social issues. Commissioner Johnny Key visited with the class on the final day and answered questions related to the current state of education in Arkansas and ways leaders can play a role in shaping the future. Seminar 6 will be Mar. 28-30 and will explore community and economic development. ■

## CES Holiday Schedule 2019

DATE	HOLIDAY
TUESDAY, JAN. 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
MONDAY, JAN. 21	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
MONDAY, MAY 27	MEMORIAL DAY
THURSDAY, JULY 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY
MONDAY, SEPT. 2	LABOR DAY
THURSDAY, NOV. 28	THANKSGIVING DAY
FRIDAY, NOV. 29	DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING (IF THE GOVERNOR DECLARES)
<b>WINTER BREAK</b>	
MONDAY, DEC. 23	ANNUAL LEAVE
TUESDAY, DEC. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE (OBSERVED)
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY (OBSERVED)
THURSDAY, DEC. 26	PRESIDENTS' DAY/DAISY GATSON BATES DAY (OBSERVED)
FRIDAY, DEC. 27	VETERAN'S DAY (OBSERVED)
MONDAY, DEC. 30	EMPLOYEE'S BIRTHDAY (OBSERVED)
TUESDAY, DEC. 31	ANNUAL LEAVE
<b>2020 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE</b>	
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1, 2020	NEW YEAR'S DAY (OBSERVED)



# Grants and Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
Cotton Incorporated-Cotton Specialists Partnership: Large-Plot, Replicated Variety Evaluations-AR	\$10,500	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension (SARE) Program	\$13,664	Jackie Lee	University of Georgia
Grow for the Green Yield Inspection	\$9,000	Jerry Clemons	Arkansas Soybean Association
Pesticide Safety Education Funds Management Program	\$20,250	Ples Spradley	Extension Foundation
TOTAL AWARDS FOR JANUARY 2019: \$53,414			

## Personnel Changes

### Welcome aboard:

**Joseph Schafer** Program Associate, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, Lonoke  
**Kylie Harris** - County Extension Agent Family and Consumer Sciences, Marshall  
**Shakarie Murphy** Budget and Reporting Director, Little Rock



### Farewell to:

**Jack Pace** - Program Associate Entomology, Monticello  
**Janet Carson** - Extension Horticulture Specialist, Little Rock  
**Sherry Ream** - 4-H Program Assistant, Berryville  
**Nita Cooper** County Extension Agent Staff Chair, Harrison  
**Brandy Batts** - Payroll Services Specialist, Little Rock  
**Julie Berry** - 4-H Program Assistant, Murfreesboro  
**Terry Spurlock** Extension Plant Pathologist, Little Rock  
**Verna Waddell** - Administrative Specialist, Development Office, Little Rock  
**Adrien Mason** Administrative Specialist, Agriculture Economics and Agriculture Business, Little Rock  
**Allen Bates** - County Extension Agent Agriculture, Hot Springs  
**Tamara Walkingstick** - Associate Director Arkansas Forest Resources Center, Little Rock  
**Iris Phifer** County Extension Agent Staff Chair, Hamburg  
**Allie Phillips** - 4-H Program Assistant, Walnut Ridge  
**Carla Vaught** County Extension Agent Staff Chair, Mena