

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

You've probably noticed a flood of emails welcoming new employees to our extension ranks. Since January, we've been able to fill 27 vacancies at the county level and at the state office. It's been a long time since we've been able to fill those positions and no doubt, we're feeling just about everything including relief, joy and excitement. You also may be wondering why we've got so many new hires all of a sudden. The answer is simple: Our work in obtaining additional funding from your county quorum courts has paid dividends – dividends in the form of new staff to help us continue our mission to our clients and stakeholders. I also want you to know that we used the utmost prudence in filling faculty vacancies. We wanted to be sure the spots we filled were ones that represented the highest stakeholder needs.

To our veterans, I want to ask you to welcome your new co-workers, not only with open arms, but also with your encouragement, advice and the benefit of your passion for our work. We are in the people business, and those relationships are so essential to our work – so please share your knowledge. And to all our new colleagues: know that you are surrounded by solid resources; co-workers who have the skills and experience to help. We wish you well in your new career.

- Tony Windham



Gov. Asa Hutchinson poses

with a pair of 4-H members at Benton County's National

Ag Day Celebration

Gov. Hutchinson, 4-H alumnus, former farmer, helps mark Ag Day in Benton County

Gov. Asa Hutchinson talked about the importance of rural communities and the economic power of farming as he helped mark National Ag Day on March 15. More than 150 people filled the auditorium at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, an event organized by the Benton County Extension Office. Why Benton County? "Agriculture is so big that if Benton County were a state, it would rank 46th nationally in ag sales," said Benton County

Staff Chair Johnny Gunsaulis. It's also where Gov. Hutchinson grew

up on a farm at Gravette and took part in the 4-H program. To see more about Ag Day in Benton County, <u>http://bit.ly/1q3HAQ5</u>.

Boone County hosted a hands-on approach to national Ag Day. "We coordinated farm tours for adult and leadership groups," said Nita Cooper, Boone County extension staff chair. "We think that's the best way to learn about agriculture is live and in person." The county also had a display in the county courthouse.



Benton County's Ag Day celebration included a farm tour to let guests see farming up close.



## Inside:

- Betty Oliver remembered as Extension Service icon
- Program and Staff Development hosts series on conflict management
- Agri Arkansas
- Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center impacts local businesses
- Sammy Sadaka receives Gamma Sigma Delta faculty award
- What is PeopleAdmin Onboarding?
- 4-H'ers go geocaching
- 4-H makes first appearance at Arkansas STEM Festival
- 4-H STEM Youth Ambassador
- Taking Care of Our Brand
- 2016 Arkansas 4-H Livestock Leadership Academy
- Benefits Corner
- Did you know?
- Blue light special
- Friends Don't Let Friends Use Old Logos
- Meet the new employees
- · Personnel changes
- Grants and contracts

DR. TONY WINDHAM Associate Vice President for Agriculture - Extension and Director, Cooperative Extension Service

## Betty Oliver remembered as Arkansas Extension Service icon

A mentor. A leader. A role model. Betty Oliver was all of those and more.

Oliver, extension volunteer coordinator/Family and Consumer Sciences for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, was the longest employee in the UA System. She died on Friday at age 79.

As the volunteer coordinator, she was the liaison between the Cooperative Extension Service and its Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, a network of more than 360 clubs with more than 4,400 members.

"Ms. Betty was the consummate professional, and her love, admiration and support ran deep for Cooperative Extension and her beloved Extension Homemakers," said Anne Sortor, associate director -Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H/Youth Development. "Ms. Betty was in her element when she spoke of the positive accomplishments to Arkansans and the nation through the work of these two organizations. She was one of our strongest advocates for families."

For Oliver, working with AEHC was "just getting back to her roots," said Melody Curtis, her extension administrative specialist. "That's where she started – with her work in the counties."

Oliver began her lengthy career with the Arkansas Extension Service in 1958, upon receiving her bachelor's degree from what was then known as Ouachita Baptist College. Her first posting was as an assistant home demonstration agent in Miller County. The next year, she was promoted to associate home demonstration agent in Pulaski County. By 1961, she was an associate no more,



Awards luncheon for the annual meeting of the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Betty Oliver, AEHC Volunteer Coordinator. Image taken June 3, 2015.

becoming a home demonstration agent in Phillips, then Lonoke counties. She was promoted to home economics leader in 1973 and was appointed Pulaski County staff chair in 1978. She retired from that post in 2002.

"Betty was a giant in Extension and in Arkansas agriculture. This is an enormous loss to us and to Arkansas," said Tony Windham, associate vice presidentagriculture-extension for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and head of the Cooperative Extension Service. "In her nearly 60 years of service to Arkansas, she not only touched, but she also changed for the better the lives of thousands of Arkansans. In so many ways, Betty was the embodiment of our extension mission in Arkansas."

# Program and Staff Development hosts series on conflict management

The Program and Staff Development department will host a four-part webinar series on the topic of conflict management. The Arkansas Employee Assistance Program will present the Brilliant Life Webinar Series.

Brilliant Life Webinars are designed to not just help us cope with the everyday issues of life, but to fill our lives with BRILLIANCE! Staff from EAP will talk about how to make our relationships, our jobs and ourselves better.



#### Sessions

- April 14: Maintaining Healthy Relationships While Resolving Conflict (Part 1)
- April 27: Maintaining Healthy Relationships While Resolving Conflict (Part 2)
- May 11: C.A.R.P. (Control, Acknowledge, Refocus and Problem Solving)
- May 25: Anger: A Primitive Emotion in a Civilized World

\*All sessions take place at 11:00 A.M. – Noon via Zoom | Enroll in Learn\*

For more information contact Julie Robinson, jrobinson@uaex.edu.

## Agri Arkansas

If you haven't seen it already, be sure to go online to AETN.org and see the most recent "Agri Arkansas." This episode is essentially dedicated to the work of the Cooperative Extension Service and includes interviews with Tony Windham, SWREC Director Vic Ford, SEREC Director Kelly Bryant and Andy Vangilder (<u>http://bit.ly/1RtTIEo</u>).

### Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center impacts local businesses

Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center is part of the Community and Economic Development program. Here is a glimpse of our impact on Arkansas businesses.



APAC had 691 consulting sessions with active clients and attended 35 conferences in the State of Arkansas for Community and Economic Development. The Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, awarded the Certificate of Appreciation to APAC staff at the Industry Days Event Dec. 1, 2015. The staff was recognized for their outstanding work, support, participation and training with Arkansas businesses and government agencies.



APAC is excited to help Arkansas businesses achieve success in government contracting. Helping Arkansas business owners generate revenue and create jobs for Arkansans is our goal. County agents and development agencies help promote local economy by utiliz-

ing APAC's staff and services. It has been a great year thanks

to everyone's teamwork. We hope to see a continuation of this upward trend!

## In Arkansas, we mean business.

## Sammy Sadaka receives Gamma Sigma Delta faculty award

Dr. Sammy Sadaka received the 2016 Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Faculty Award on March 16, 2016, at the Pauline Whitaker Arena in Fayetteville for his outstanding contributions in Extension.

Dr. Sadaka was recognized for his



Dr. Sammy Sadaka receives the Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Faculty Award from Dr. Michael Popp, president of GSD.

significant contributions in bioenergy, grain drying and handling and farm safety. He has served on the faculty of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering since 2007 and has recently successfully completed the "Master Credential in Grain Operations Management."

## What is PeopleAdmin Onboarding?

This month Human Resources launched an exciting new tool called PeopleAdmin Onboarding, a secure portal in which new hires will electronically complete and digitally sign payroll and other new-hire documentation. The new-hire documentation will also be routed online directly to the person who is responsible for processing it.

PeopleAdmin Onboarding will make the paperwork process faster, more intuitive and more secure for the new hire. It will also eliminate the need to route most paperwork to the LRSO by mail, speeding up our hiring process significantly. Some documents that require in-person signatures or notarization will not be completed within PeopleAdmin Onboarding. (See the new policy for details.)

The new hiring policy was released on April 8, but if you plan to hire in the month of April, please contact Jill Williams, employment manager, at 501-671-2149 or jcwilliams@uaex.edu for more details on this exciting new process. Supervisors will have a three-week window (April 8 - May 2) to use the current hiring process before requiring the new employee's use of PeopleAdmin Onboarding.



PRAIRIE AND LONOKE COUNTY 4-H'ERS GO GEOCACHING: Prairie and Lonoke County 4-H teens spent part of their spring break touring the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center and Arkansas River Trail in downtown Little Rock. While at the Nature Center, they participated in a geocaching activity where they learned to use coordinates to locate four small geocaches. By combining GPS technology, sleuthing and outdoor exploration, geocaching engaged them in an educational tour of the nature center.

# What's new in publications? Find out at: http://www.uaex.edu/publications/new.aspx

## 4-H makes first appearance at Arkansas STEM Festival

About a dozen Arkansas 4-H members joined nearly 1,000 students from around the state Feb. 26 at the second annual Arkansas STEM Festival, organized by the LISA Academy of Little Rock.

The event took place at the Donaghey Student Center on the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, featuring science projects intended to highlight the academic areas of science, technology, engineering and math. Rick Fields, 4-H science and curriculum coordinator for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said the festival was designed to be a statewide celebration of science.

"It gives them a platform to exhibit what they're doing as 4-H'ers in science, and it gives them an opportunity to get out and experience what their peers are doing, as far as science and discovery throughout the state," Fields said.



Rhett Bryant, 17, of Jonesboro, explains and activates a Bluetooth controlled robot built by the Craighead County 4-H robotics team during the second annual Arkansas STEM Festival, held inside the Donaghey Student Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. About 1,000 students from around the state attended the event.

Members of the Craighead County 4-H Robotics Club manned one exhibit, while other 4-H'ers from Faulkner and Pulaski counties exhibited projects that can be found in 4-H science kits used throughout the state.

Rhett Bryant of Jonesboro, 17, attended the festival as a member of the Craighead County 4-H Robotics Club. He and other members explained and demonstrated a Bluetooth-controlled robot that Bryant said it took them about five months to engineer and construct.

"It's given me a lot of lessons in 'trial-and-error' learning," Bryant said. "I'd like to go into engineering, and the club has given me a lot of hand-on experience, putting principles into action."

Fields, who began his current position in October 2015, said 4-H's participation in the fair also gave the broader public an opportunity to learn about the organization's efforts to educate members in the sciences.

"It allows 4-H to 'get on the map,' and explore different avenues for science that we haven't traditionally tapped for publicity," Fields said. "I just want us to be more visible within these different avenues so that schools will know who we are and what our involvement is in science so that we can build future collaborations.

## 4-H STEM Youth Ambassador

Howard County 4-H member Joshua Rodgers was recently selected as a member of the inaugural class of National 4-H STEM Youth Ambassadors Program. After a highly competitive application process and interview, Joshua was chosen as one of six teens from 13 states. As a 4-H STEM Youth Ambassador, he will assist in accomplishing the goals and outcomes of



Joshua Rodgers

the 4-H Science Mission Mandate. Joshua will serve a twoyear term as a leader making contributions to solve local challenges, speaking publically about his 4-H STEM Future program involvement, and advising National 4-H Council, Lockheed Martin and 4-H National Headquarters on promotional tactics for sparking youth interest in STEM. He will represent 4-H at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C., in April.

## Taking care of our brand

## **No!** University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Why? because there's no "System" between "Arkansas" and "Division."

## Nope! University of Arkansas Research & Extension

Why? It's what we do, but it's not our brand.



Any official variation of the Razorback is a trademarked symbol of the University of Arkansas Athletic Department. We must request special permission to display it. Please **do not** use in email signatures or any other promotional information.

## 2016 Arkansas 4-H Livestock Leadership Academy

The first ever Arkansas 4-H Livestock Leadership Academy was held March 24-26 at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. Twenty-six 4-H'ers from across the state spent three days learning about leadership, career readiness and professionalism, all centered on livestock.

Jason Davis kicked off day one with leadership activities and ice-breakers. The rest of the afternoon was spent doing the low ropes course with the ExCEL Program.

On day two, Laura Daniels, a Wisconsin dairy farmer, talked about her 10 life hacks. Jackson Alexander made a presentation on social media and advocacy. During lunch, Arkansas Agriculture Department Secretary Wes Ward spoke to the 4-H'ers.



4-H'ers participating in the low ropes course.



Livestock Leadership Academy 4-H'ers with Arkansas Agriculture Department Secretary Wes Ward.



4-H'ers toured the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission in Little Rock.

After lunch, colleges from all over the state set up for a college fair, followed by a career panel made up of Brittany Carwell with B&D Genetics, Cindy Ham with Arkansas Extension, Buck Pendergraft with Purnia, and Landon Watkins with Zoetis.

A tour of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission was given by the state veterinarian, Dr. Brandon Doss, and the Arkansas Agriculture Department's chief chemist, Dr. William Summers. The academy wrapped up with Dr. Julie Robinson talking about the importance of a thank you.

## **BENEFITS CORNER**

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#### Check it out!

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**Benefit enrollment(s) and per pay period premiums can be viewed in Banner Self Service:** Log into the Banner Self Service Link, <u>http://uaex.edu/links</u>, and click on Banner Self Service (SSB).

Use your Banner User ID and password to login. Click Employee Services, then Benefits and Deductions, then Benefit Statement, then My Benefit Summary and Select, Select.

**Beneficiary Information in CEDAR:** Did you know you can view your designated life insurance beneficiary at any time in CEDAR? Go to the CEDAR Link, <u>http://cedar.uaex.edu</u>, and then click on HR: Your Personnel Records and then Display Matches by Name. Review form(s) Group Benefits Enrollment Form **or** Group Benefits Change Form for the most recently named beneficiary.

Your retirement plan beneficiaries are maintained by your plan sponsor. If you are enrolled in the UA Retirement Plan, simply log into your TIAA-CREF and/or Fidelity account to update your beneficiary on-line or call TIAA-CREF, <u>www.tiaa-cref.org</u>, 1-800-842-2776/Fidelity, <u>www.fidelity.com</u>, 1-800-343-0860. If you participate in the state retirement plan, APERS, beneficiary forms are available at <u>www.apers.org</u> or call 1-501-682-7800.

Material sent by email regarding benefits issues will be sent from yourbenefits@uaex.edu.

For more information, contact Human Resources, phone (501) 671-2219, fax (501) 671-2251, web <u>http://www.uaex.edu/support-units/human-resources/</u>.

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## Blue light special

Curious about the flashing blue lights in the Little Rock State Office parking lot? These are police call boxes. Each yellow pole has a yellow call box. Press the button and a UALR dispatcher will answer and ask you about your emergency. If the light is flashing, it means the box has been activated and provides responders



with a visual marker for your location. Please know that if you call from one of these boxes, the dispatcher has a screen telling him or her your location.

However, the boxes are sensitive to vibration and are frequently flash ing when set off by thunder or other noises. UALR public safety resets the boxes to their inactive state.

# FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS



YES! USA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System



VESI DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & EXTENSION University of Arkansas System

definitely not UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Find the right stuff here: <u>http://bit.ly/DivOfAgLogo16</u>

# Meet the *Nell* employees!



**Terrika M. Edwards** Administrative Specialist Pulaski County

#### • What's your background? I have a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

# • What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?

I am bringing to Extension time management skills that will help me complete tasks in a timely manner along with organizational skills that will aid in maintaining files and records.

## • What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?

I am a reliable hard worker who is very open to learning new things.

## • What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?

I would like to learn as much as I can and help improve my community by sharing with others the many facets of Extension.

## • What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?

The diverse programs and community outreach is what brought me to the Extension Service. I value the Extension Service's desire and eager spirit to educate individuals of all walks of life.

## • What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with my loved ones, reading books and traveling when time allows. ■



#### **Sydney Jones** Administrative Specialist Little Rock State Office

• What's your background?

I graduated from UCA in 2012 with a double major in linguistics and creative writing. I've worked in retail settings and been a part of the glamorous life of scanning papers. I would eventually like to go back to school for a more in-demand degree and because

I adore learning new things.

## • What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?

I'm bringing my extensive knowledge of Harry Potter trivia as well as some clever writing and social media skills. I'm also a creative problem solver who enjoys helping others.

## • What are one or two things you would like your colleagues to know about you?

I always want to hear stories and see pictures of your pets. If you know anywhere that makes good fish tacos, let me know.

## • What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?

I would like to familiarize myself with the numerous departments and what they do here at Extension so I can accurately describe my work to my friends. I also look forward to the continuation of getting to know so many friendly people.

## • What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?

I didn't know much about Extension before I got here, but I'm thoroughly enjoying the atmosphere. I already value the people and their dedication to Extension.

## • What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?

I enjoy reading fantasy and science fiction novels, making up excuses to go to pet stores to gush over people's pets, watching stand-up comedy, traveling and going to concerts.



Jennifer Shaw 4-H Program Assistant Cleburne County

• What's your background? My background is in medicine

with radiologic technology and phlebotomy.

## • What knowledge, skills and experience are you bringing to Extension?

I am a self-motivated team player who enjoys working with the public.

## • What would you like to accomplish your first year with Extension?

I would like to gain more knowledge of Extension's role in my community and be a positive asset to our community and state as a whole.

## • What brought you to Extension? What was it about Extension that you value?

I was attracted by the diversity of Extension and how it's involved in the community.

## • What are your interests or hobbies outside of work?

I love gardening, chickens, sewing and food preservation. ■

## Personnel changes

#### Please welcome the following:

#### Melissa Dugan

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective March 1, 2016.

#### Terrika Edwards

Administrative Specialist, Pulaski County, effective February 16, 2016.

#### Sydney Jones

Administrative Specialist, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, effective February 16, 2016.

#### Jennifer Shaw

Program Assistant - 4-H, Cleburne County, effective February 22, 2016.

#### Extension says goodbye to:

**Melody Boyd** Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective March 4, 2016.

#### Melissa Dugan

Program Assistant - EFNEP, Pulaski County, effective March 4, 2016.

#### K. K. Hodges

Accountant, Financial Services, effective March 31, 2016.

#### Angela Hogan

Accounts Payable Coordinator, Financial Services, effective March 15, 2016.

#### **Kim Hughes**

County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Polk County, effective March 31, 2016.

#### Dieuvalda Lamartiniere

Administrative Specialist, Animal Science, effective March 31, 2016.

#### Sandra Schlinker

Administrative Specialist, Logan County, effective March 31, 2016.

#### Mark Scott

Chief Communications Officer, Communications, effective March 18, 2016.

#### **Steve Seideman**

Extension Food Processing Specialist, Food Science Institute, effective March 31, 2016.

#### **Gail Swiney**

EFNEP and Food Safety Program Technician, Family and Consumer Sciences, effective March 3, 2016.

#### Logan Towles

Program Technician - Entomology, Northeast Research and Extension Center, effective March 21, 2016.

## Grants and contracts

for Month Ending March 31, 2016

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	\$ 2,108	Anne Sortor	Ashley County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Carroll County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,068	Anne Sortor	Cleburne County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Greene County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Hot Spring County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Izard County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	564	Anne Sortor	Lafayette County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Lawrence County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	1,501	Anne Sortor	Logan County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation

(Continued, page 9)

#### Grants and contracts (cont.)

Project Title	Award Amount	Principal Investigator	Granting Agency
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Lonoke County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	1,000	Anne Sortor	Madison County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	2,304	Anne Sortor	Pike County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Poinsett County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	2,500	Anne Sortor	Pope County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	2,400	Anne Sortor	Sebastian County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	3,200	Anne Sortor	Sevier County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	800	Anne Sortor	Washington County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
2016 NRA Foundation Multi-County 4-H Shooting Sports Cash Awards	384	Anne Sortor	Woodruff County 2016 4-H Shooting Sports - NRA Foundation
Cotton Incorporated - Cotton Specialists Partnership: Large-Plot, Replicated Variety Evaluations - Arkansas	6,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Soil Health - No Till	25,074	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Enhanced Communication	12,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Cotton Research Irrigation Verification and Sustainability Program: Arkansas	25,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Insect Management in MId-South Pest Management: Arkansas I	15,000	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
OVT Trips Tolerance	5,000	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
Thrips Control W/Alternatives to Neonicotinoids	21,724	Gus Lorenz	Cotton Incorporated
Insect Management in Mid-South Pest Management: Arkansas III	17,000	Nick Seiter	Cotton Incorporated
Evaluation of Cotton Yield, Quality and Plant Growth Response to Soil-Applied Potassium - II Multi-Year Sites	8,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Evaluation of Cotton Yield, Quality and Plant Growth Response to Soil-Applied Potassium 1 Single Year Per Site	11,000	Bill Robertson	Cotton Incorporated
Improving Soybean Yield in the Double Crop Soybean Production System	65,720	Jeremy Ross	North Central Soybean Research Program
2013-2014 NWA Regional Urban Stormwater Education Program	208,508	Katherine Teague	Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission
Total Awards for March 2016	\$462,255		