

**SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**BUILDING BRIDGES  
TOWARD  
FUTURE PROSPERITY**



**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The theme for this annual report of the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) is “Building Bridges Toward Future Prosperity”. Thinking about development issues through a more optimistic lens is intentional. Although this has been another tumultuous year with continuation of the pandemic, numerous economic challenges, and domestic and international conflicts, there have also been innovative and transformative efforts not only to confront these problems but to also build the foundation for future possibilities. In order to learn from, refine, and expand such initiatives, we must work across organizational, state, and even social boundaries. To put it more succinctly, we need to build and strengthen bridges.

As you will see in this report, the SRDC and our many partners have been busy working together on bridge building. Benefitting from the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and talents in this growing network, coupled with critical resources from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and investments from supportive agencies and foundations, we have engaged in strategic efforts to construct infrastructures and enhance the capacity for pursuit of prosperity. This includes resource mobilization, coordination, and facilitation through both research and Extension. We share multiple examples in the following pages to inform and inspire future efforts.

Coming to this position as the new Director of the SRDC in the past year, the notion of building bridges fits well with my approach to community and regional development research and outreach that is best described as exploring multiple pathways for a better future. Often described in the field as the “possibilist” approach, the focus is on identifying multiple opportunities for creative problem solving and advancement, considering both constraints and assets, and informing collective action through research. Along with others in the SRDC, I look forward to working with the SRDC’s Board of Directors and Technical and Operational Advisory Committee, NIFA, partners in the Land-Grant University system, and our numerous collaborators with additional colleges/universities, non-profits, and foundations to advance quality of life and wellbeing in the southern region and across rural America as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. John J. Green  
Director

# MEET THE SRDC TEAM



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# MISSION

The Southern Rural Development Center seeks to strengthen the capacity of the region's 30 Land-Grant Institutions to address critical contemporary rural development issues impacting the wellbeing of people and communities in the rural South.

## Priorities:

- Develop Pathways to Resilient Communities
- Build Strategic Partnerships
- Mobilize Resources around Emerging Issues and Opportunities

To view all the Land-Grant Institutions that we serve, please visit:  
[srdc.msstate.edu/about/landgrant/](http://srdc.msstate.edu/about/landgrant/)

# CONTACT US

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Phone: 662.325.3207 | Fax: 662.325.8777

## Websites

Southern Rural Development Center | [srdc.msstate.edu](http://srdc.msstate.edu)

Regional Rural Development Centers | [rrdc.info](http://rrdc.info)



Southern Rural  
Development Center



Southern Rural  
Development Center



@so\_dev\_center

Graphic Design | Carmen Kelly

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Shutterstock, Freepik

## DR. STEVEN TURNER RETIRES AFTER 18 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MS STATE AND SRDC



Dr. Steve Turner has retired from Mississippi State University (MS State) and the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) after 18 years of combined service.

Turner began his service to Mississippi State University as Department Head and Professor of Agricultural Economics in 2003. In 2014, he transitioned to Director of the SRDC.

Dr. Turner's areas of research interests are concentrated on marketing and finance with emphasis on the green and livestock sectors with futures and option markets. His research emphasis as director of SRDC was community and rural development.

Dr. Turner has received many prestigious awards during his career, such as the American Agricultural Economics Association Distinguished Teaching Award in 1992, the University of Georgia Richard B. Russell Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1993, the 1996 Distinguished Professional Contribution in the Teaching of a Course Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA), and in 2011, Dr. Turner received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the SAEA. His most recent bestowment has been the title of Professor Emeritus from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University.

## DR. JOHN J. GREEN NAMED AS NEW DIRECTOR OF THE SRDC



Dr. John J. Green became Director of the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) on Aug. 1, 2021.

He is a Professor of in the Department of Agricultural Economics and comes to the SRDC with experience as senior research associate with the Center for Population Studies at the University of Mississippi (UM). Previously, he was director of this center and the State Data Center of Mississippi at UM.

Dr. Green has worked primarily in Mississippi and the South, but his career has also reached internationally. His background includes policy development, community-based research, rural sociology and community development, and socioeconomic vulnerability and resilience.

Dr. Green earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science and sociology at MS State before earning his doctorate in rural sociology at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He was the program scholar with the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Museum on Main Street Smithsonian Institute's traveling exhibit, Crossroads: Change in Rural America.

Previously, he was a faculty member at Delta State University, and he has authored numerous publications on topics including rural demography, community development, health, agrifood systems, and the challenges faced by communities experiencing shocks and stressors in the ever changing world.

# JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# COMING TOGETHER FOR RACIAL UNDERSTANDING



Coming Together for Racial Understanding has now been underway for over 3 years with many thanks to the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy for launching this important work. To date, three train-the-trainer events have been conducted with a total of 29 states participating. Each state team first works to expand the pool of trained Extension professionals - believing in the importance of doing our own work - before launching community dialogues.

Coming Together received the 2021 National Diversity in Extension Award at the annual Food and Agriculture Excellence Awards, hosted by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. The award, sponsored by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Cooperative Extension, recognizes significant contributions and accomplishments in achieving and sustaining diversity. Below are examples of the initiative's impacts across four realms.

## PERSONAL

- Increased empathy and deeper listening
- More comfort in conversations
- Recognizing the importance of dialogue to inform meaningful change



## INTERPERSONAL

- Becoming more attentive to own language and biases
- Developing deeper relationships among colleagues and with community participants



## INSTITUTIONAL

- Increased awareness of institutional bias and privilege
- Increased capacity for and prioritization of work on diversity, equity, and inclusion
- National network forming

## CULTURAL

- Normalizing conversation on race
- Growing number of colleagues ready for conversations
- Increased efforts to truly listen and honor diverse voices
- New partnerships formed



View the full report here: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/civildialogue/index.html>

# FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Valentine's Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Presidents' Day					
27	28					



# SOUTHERN REGION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION IMPACTS

**88,573** Number of jobs created/retained

**11,863** Number of participants who report new leadership roles & opportunities undertaken

**28,034** Number of businesses created, retained, or expanded

**1,120** Number of plans adopted and implemented in community, agency, local government, business, or disaster

**384** Number of new alliances or networks formed through some type of formal agreement or MOU

**\$2,058,870,461**

Grants acquired by organizations or communities because of Extension efforts

**\$5,226,307**

Value of in-kind resources contributed by organizations or communities

**111.82**

Full Time Equivalents

**20**

Universities Reporting



To learn more, visit: [http://srdc.msstate.edu/measuring\\_impact/south-initiatives.html](http://srdc.msstate.edu/measuring_impact/south-initiatives.html)



# MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daylight Savings Begins				Saint Patrick's Day		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# SOUTHERN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT STORIES



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Land-Grant Universities are making a difference in their communities by fostering rural entrepreneurship and providing essential workforce skills needed for regional recovery and growth.

Examples from:

Alabama A&M University, Clemson University, North Carolina State University, Prairie View A&M University, University of Puerto Rico



## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DISASTER RESPONSE

By encouraging citizen participation in the civic process, assisting local governments in making better informed decisions, and preparing communities for natural disasters, our institutions are ensuring that local communities are ready to meet the next big challenge.

Examples from:

Auburn University, Oklahoma State University, Southern University, University of Arkansas, University of Kentucky



## COMMUNITY VITALITY QUALITY OF LIFE LOCAL FOODS

By building upon existing strengths, while responding to community concerns, our Land-Grant Universities are promoting healthy, vibrant communities throughout the region.

Examples from:

Alcorn State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Mississippi State University, Texas A&M University, University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service



To learn more, visit: [http://srdc.msstate.edu/measuring\\_impact/south-initiatives.html](http://srdc.msstate.edu/measuring_impact/south-initiatives.html)

# APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	Good Friday	23
Easter Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30
24						

# HEIRS' PROPERTY NETWORK



## WORKING GROUPS:

### **RESEARCH**

Identify and share on-going research through monthly briefings, providing feedback to the researchers as well as informing ongoing research efforts

#### **LEADS:**

Conner Bailey  
*Professor Emeritus*  
*Auburn University*

James Patterson  
*Clayton County Georgia,*  
*Board of Commissioners*

### **LEGAL POLICY**

Monitor and collaborate on education, research, and policy recommendations related to federal and state-level policy issues

#### **LEADS:**

Eloris Speight  
*Socially Disadvantaged Farmers*  
*& Ranchers Policy Research Center*  
*Alcorn State University*

Emma Scott  
*Center for Health Law*  
*& Policy Innovation*  
*Harvard University*

### **EXTENSION/EDUCATION**

Develop a comprehensive curriculum for Extension educators

#### **LEADS:**

Becky Smith  
*Mississippi State University*

Sam Cook  
*North Carolina State University*

## **HEIRS' PROPERTY** **ONLINE RESOURCES:**



[http://srdc.msstate.edu/heir\\_property](http://srdc.msstate.edu/heir_property)



200 + Member Heir Property ListServ

## **EVENTS CO-SPONSORED** **WITH THE** **FEDERATION OF** **SOUTHERN COOPERATIVES:**



September 14, 2021  
Stronger Together:  
Research-Based  
Practices for Working  
with Heirs' Property  
Landowners



December 1-3, 2021  
FORWARD:  
National Heirs'  
Property Conference

# MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mother's Day						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
	Memorial Day					



# CELEBRATING RETAIL, ACCOMMODATIONS, TOURISM AND ENTERTAINMENT BY BUILDING RURAL INNOVATIONS AND DEVELOPING GROWTH ECONOMIES

CREATE BRIDGES is an economic development initiative for rural, multi-county regions to strengthen businesses and workforce within the retail, accommodations, tourism and entertainment sectors. Below are examples of strategies implemented.



### Workforce

Developed online workforce trainings tailored to the needs of their regions.



### Tourism

Launched regional promotion campaigns based on their regions' needs - that included food tour videos, branding campaigns, shop local brochures, and tourism maps.

### Business

Supported businesses pivoting in response to a changing business landscape, which included a consumer survey, a podcast series, resources for online marketing and sales, and a customer courtesy campaign.



### Community Support

Provided resources to shore up broader support for the community. Strategies included: a stimulus fund partnership, training for rural chambers, micro-grants for community projects, regional story-mapping, and the 2021 Solar Eclipse planning.



### Perspectives from Community Partners:

*The findings from the CREATE BRIDGES assessment provided area leadership the data needed to best fit our individual counties in the Ozark Foothills region.*

- Steering Committee Member (Arkansas)

*With the data that CREATE BRIDGES collected in Creek County, local businesses were able to identify specific issues to be addressed in order to provide stability and growth to our retail, entertainment, tourism and hospitality sectors.*

- Business Owner (Oklahoma)

*The regional Help Desk Program has made a huge impact on my life. I have become better at meeting deadlines and how to work with other people to get a specific job done.*

- Youth Participant (Kentucky)

### State Leads for CREATE BRIDGES:

#### Phase 1

- Stacey McCullough, University of Arkansas
- Alison Davis, University of Kentucky
- Sara Siems, Oklahoma State University

#### Phase 2

- Susan Odum, University of Illinois
- Michael Patrick, New Mexico State University
- Becky Bowen, North Carolina State University



To learn more, visit: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/createbridges/index.html>

Funding for the project provided by: **Walmart.org**

# JUNE 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Father's Day						
26	27	28	29	30		

# DIGITAL ACCESS CONTINUUM



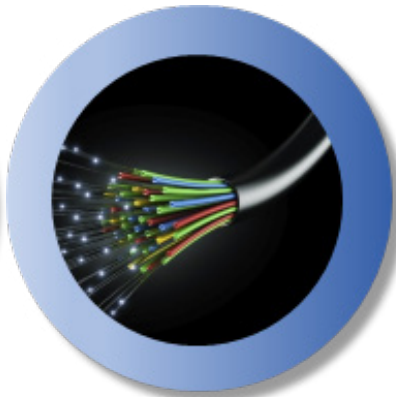
## AWARE

Being **AWARE** of how broadband can be used as a resource



## AVAILABLE

Having **AVAILABLE** broadband infrastructure



## ACCESS

Having a computing device capable of effectively providing **ACCESS**



## ADOPT

Choosing to **ADOPT** or subscribe to an internet service



## ADVANCE

Using broadband service to **ADVANCE** quality of life outcomes



## National Digital Education Extension Team (NDEET) Plans for 2021-22:

- Launch a Community Digital Access Toolkit to aid Extension professionals in facilitating community efforts on broadband access
- Develop a Digital Literacy Toolkit for Extension professionals
- Organize a resource bank for Extension resources to support the digital access continuum
- Establish a community of practice for Extension professionals to share ideas and questions
- Research the impacts of a broadband adoption on advancing quality of life



To learn more, visit: <http://srcd.msstate.edu/ecommerce/>



# JULY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Independence Day					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (RRDC) 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDC), funded by the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, work to strengthen the capacity of Land-Grant University partners to serve rural communities through research and Extension.

Join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (August 30, 1972, originally known as the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act or the Con Act) to Revitalize and Develop Rural America, which established the RRDCs.

## The four Regional Rural Development Centers are:

### North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

Hosted by Purdue University

Director: Maria Marshall

### Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Hosted by The Pennsylvania State University

Director: Stephan Goetz

### Southern Rural Development Center

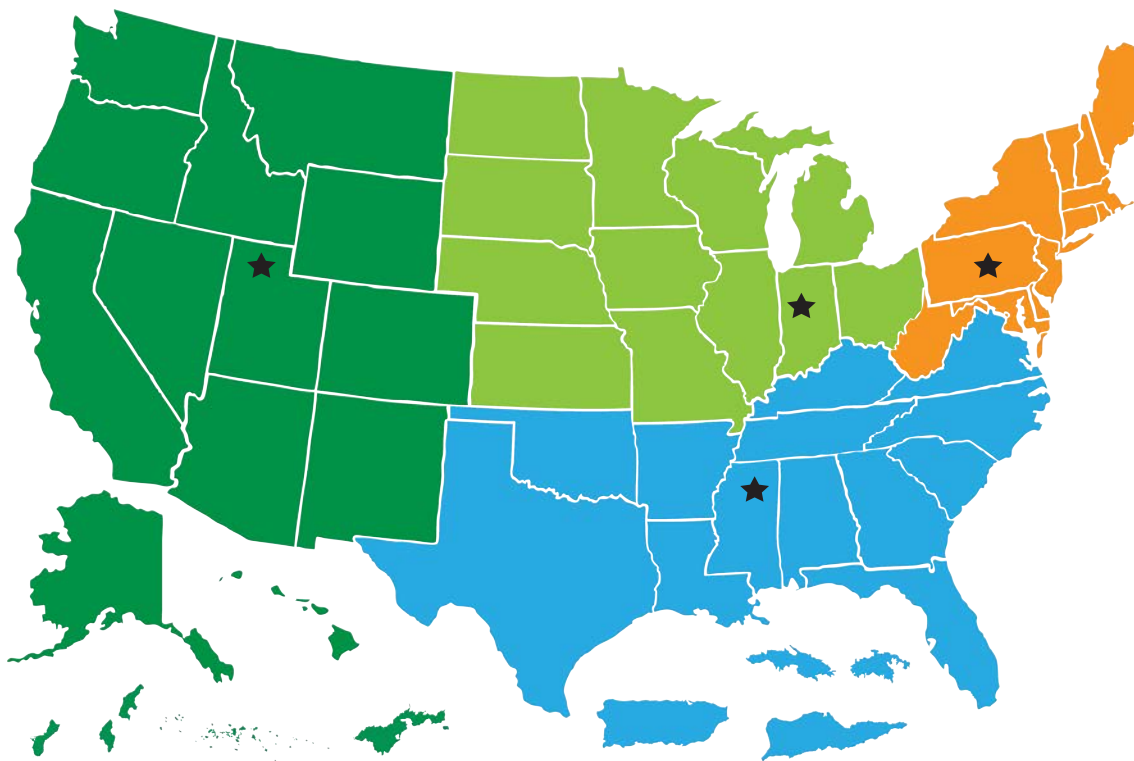
Hosted by Mississippi State University

Director: John J. Green

### Western Rural Development Center

Hosted by Utah State University

Director: Don E. Albrecht



To learn more, visit: [rrdc.info](http://rrdc.info)

# AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Southern Region Program Leadership Network, Association of Extension Administrators & Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Joint Meeting					
28	29	30	31			

# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH NETWORKS

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL INDICATORS WORKING GROUP WEBINAR SERIES



February 23, 2021 - Moving Ripple Effects Mapping Online



October 2, 2021 - Impact Statement Writing Made Easy



## SOUTHERN REGION PROGRAM LEADERSHIP NETWORK

The mission of this group is to foster and strengthen Extension education programming throughout the southern region by promoting multiple state cooperation, anticipating emerging program issues and needs, and implementing action processes to address them in a timely manner.

In August 2021, 329 participants representing Extension Service state program leaders from eight committees, the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), and the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED) convened for the 2021 joint virtual conference. The number of participants in each group are depicted below.

**4-H Youth Development | 42**

**AEA | 19**

**AG & Natural Resources | 35**

**ASRED | 20**

**Communications | 33**

**Community Development | 28**

**Family & Consumer Sciences | 35**

**Information Technology | 22**

**Middle Managers | 58**

**Program & Staff Development | 37**



To learn more, visit: <https://rrdc.usu.edu/national-cred-team>

# SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Labor Day					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

# INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORK ON RURAL POPULATION HEALTH AND AGING



PennState



University of Colorado Boulder



Syracuse University



Population aging is occurring more rapidly in rural than urban areas, pointing to both opportunities and important challenges that need attention from researchers to inform outreach, Extension, and policy. Recognizing that rural communities are not all the same, appreciation of diverse experiences and trajectories is critical.

The Southern Rural Development Center is part of the Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging leadership team, along with researchers at The Pennsylvania State University, Syracuse University, and University of Colorado Boulder. With funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the network facilitates innovative research on health and aging trends among different rural populations and regions in the United States. With a distribution list of more than 225 researchers, nearly 40 core members, and an active advisory board, the national network is growing.



## NETWORK ACTIVITIES:

- Conferences and webinars on key rural population health and aging issues
- Pilot grants to invest in innovative research ideas and support a rising cadre of research leaders
- Training and technical assistance for proposal writing, publishing, and translating research for broader public dissemination
- Collaboration on research publications, including special issues of peer-reviewed journals

## NETWORK PRIORITIES:

- Trends in disparities in middle-age and older adult health and wellbeing across different types of rural areas and vulnerable population groups
- Implications of population health and aging trends for multiple spheres of community life
- Relationships between economic livelihood strategies, economic assets, and health and wellbeing
- Contributions of physical and social isolation on health and wellbeing
- Connections between exposure to environmental change and health and wellbeing



To learn more, visit: <https://sites.psu.edu/inrpha/>

# OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Columbus Day					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
	Halloween					

# SOUTHERN EXTENSION & RESEARCH ACTIVITY (SERA) 47: LOCAL FOODS

## New 5 Year Objectives:



Develop a network of food system Extension and research professionals to share best practices, coordinate regional efforts, and generate new knowledge.



Identify current and emerging issues specific to food system development in the Southern region.



Explore policy and economic development opportunities and best practices for communities across the region.

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The Southern Extension and Research Activity 47 (SERA-47) Local & Regional Foods annual meeting, held December 13-15, 2021, allowed Extension and research colleagues in the Southern region to share the great work they are doing related to local foods and to explore opportunities to expand throughout the region. The goal is to foster networking to strengthen research and Extension collaboration across the region.

## LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Bi-monthly webinar series showcased what members are doing in their own states included:

- Building Local Food Systems for University Farm-to-Institution Programs
- Post Pandemic Management Practices for Limited Resource Farmers
- Farming Professionals: Cooperatively Working Together
- Marketing Strategies to Help a Food Business Grow in 2021
- Creating a More Equitable Food System for All



To learn more, visit: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/foods>



# NOVEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Daylight Savings Ends					Veterans Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Thanksgiving Day		
27	28	29	30			

# BONNIE TEATER EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For 30 years, Bonnie Teater provided valuable support to the Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration through her dedication to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's Land-Grant Universities. She currently is enjoying retirement in Kentucky.

This award honors the work of a "rising star" who has already achieved great things in his/her early career in community development. Below is the 2021 recipient.

## 2021 BONNIE TEATER AWARD RECIPIENT: SREEDHAR UPENDRAM



Dr. Sreedhar Upendram, the 2021 recipient, is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Dr. Upendram's tenure in Extension community research development began in 2017.

Since then he has spearheaded many impactful efforts primarily focused on broadband access and adoption as well as rural water infrastructure. His broadband work resulted in the development and expansion of a library mobile internet hot-spot lending initiative adopted in six Tennessee counties and eleven elementary schools. He also secured funding to support a downtown Wi-Fi program to help improve economic development and entrepreneurial activity. Dr. Upendram's efforts supporting

rural water infrastructure have yielded substantial, positive impacts for the community through his development of a comprehensive database called "Ability to Pay Index". This tool has fundamentally changed the way that the state of Tennessee identifies and addresses small and disadvantaged communities who need critical help with water infrastructure.

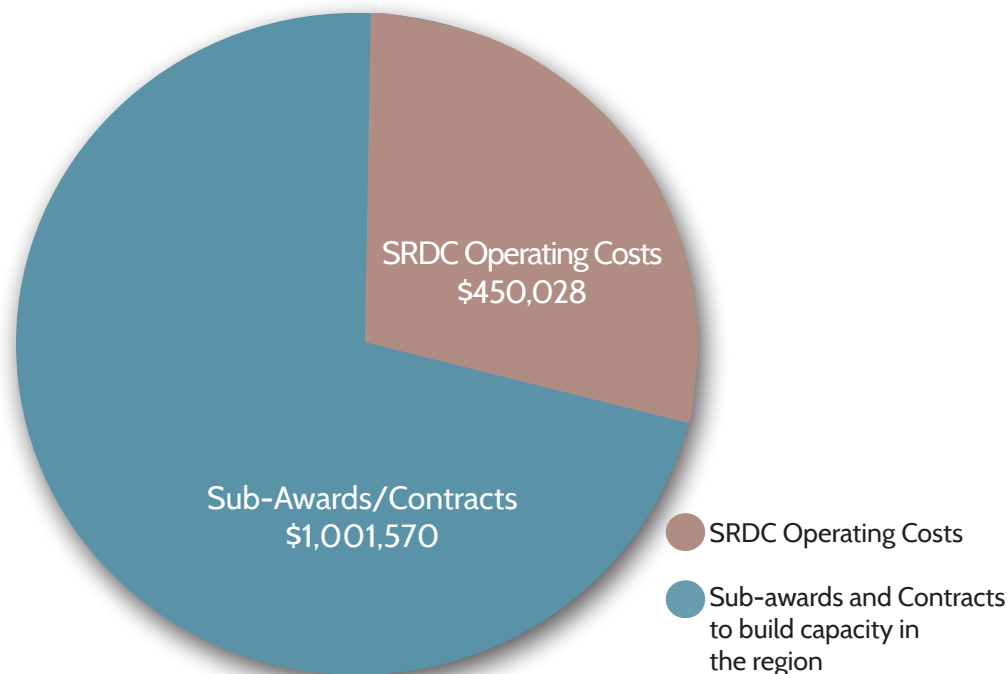
In conjunction with these impacts, Dr. Upendram's academic scholarship has resulted in over nine peer-reviewed journal articles and over 111 peer-reviewed Extension publications exploring state and regional economic development challenges. Additionally he has secured over 20 research grants totaling over \$8.6 million. The aforementioned shows that Dr. Upendram continues to demonstrate the spirit of this prestigious award through his work in community development.



To learn more, visit: <http://srcd.msstate.edu/funding/bonnieateater/>

# 2021 EXPENDITURES

## SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER TRAINING, EVENTS, & INVESTMENTS



The Southern Rural Development Center seeks to strengthen the capacity of the region's 30 Land-Grant Institutions to address critical contemporary rural development issues impacting the wellbeing of people and communities in the rural South and Extension by:

- Forming relevant multi-state research teams
- Coordinating the development of educational materials
- Organizing and delivering high priority rural development research and educational workshops/conferences
- Providing science based research to inform rural development policy
- Building partnerships that link the South's Land-Grant University system with other key entities committed to rural development activities in the region



To learn more, visit: <http://srcd.msstate.edu>

# DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day						New Year's Eve

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Jackson  
Steve Martin | Alternate  
Mississippi State University | 1862 Extension

Ed Jones  
Virginia Tech University | 1862 Extension

Raymon Shange  
Tuskegee University | 1890 Extension

Laura Stephenson  
University of Kentucky | 1862 Extension

Carolyn Williams  
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John Davis  
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Al Parks, Chair Elect  
Prairie View A&M University | 1890 Research

Christopher Ray  
Clemson University | 1862 Research

Wesley Whittaker  
Langston University | 1890 Research

Carolyn Abdullah  
Everyday Democracy | Non Land-Grant

Dãnia Davy  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ | Non Land-Grant  
Land Assistance Fund

Dave Shideler, Chair  
Heartland Forward | Non Land-Grant

Brent Elrod  
USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture | Liaison

John Pender  
USDA-Economic Research Service | Liaison

## 2021 TECHNICAL OPERATIONAL & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Susan Kelly  
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Joy Moten-Thomas, Chair  
Fort Valley State University | 1890 Extension

Sandra Thompson  
Florida A&M University | 1890 Extension

Sreedhar Upendram  
University of Tennessee | 1862 Extension

Jamie Rae Walker, Chair Elect  
Texas A&M University | 1862 Extension

Ed Buckner  
Alcorn State University | 1890 Research

Matt Fannin  
Louisiana State University | 1862 Research

Wayne Miller  
University of Arkansas | 1862 Research

Michael Salassi  
Louisiana State University | 1862 Research

Subramania Sritharan  
Central State University | 1890 Research

Robert Zabawa  
Tuskegee University | 1890 Research

Ann Carpenter  
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta | Non Land-Grant

Aury Kangelos  
Heartland Forward | Non Land-Grant

Lorette Picciano  
Rural Coalition | Non Land-Grant

Al Parks  
Prairie View A&M University | Board Liaison

Dreamal Worthen  
Florida A&M University | 1890 Extension

## SRDC PARTNERS

Association of Extension Administrators  
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors  
Community Development Society  
Delta Directions Consortium  
Economic Research Service, USDA  
Everyday Democracy  
Extension Committee on Organization and Policy  
Extension Foundation  
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging  
Joint Council of Extension Professionals  
Journal of Rural Social Sciences/Southern Rural  
Sociological Association

Kettering Foundation  
Land Loss Prevention Project  
Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems  
National 4-H Council  
National Association of Community Development  
Extension Professionals  
National Institute of Civil Discourse  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA  
National Institute on Aging  
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development  
Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development  
Office of Partnership and Public Engagement, USDA  
Purdue Center for Regional Development  
Rural Coalition

Rural Sociological Society  
Rural Development, USDA  
Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers Policy  
Research Center  
Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment  
Station Directors  
Southern Extension Risk Management Education  
University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies  
W4001 Multistate Research Group on Demographic  
Change in Rural America  
W. K. Kellogg Foundation  
Western Rural Development Center  
Walmart