**Project or Activity Number:** SERA-47

**Title:** Entered automatically by NIMSS after project number is entered.

**Period Covered:** December 2019 – December 2020

**Annual Meeting Dates:** December 9– 11, 2020

**2020 Leadership**

**Chair:** Karen Vines, Virginia Tech

**Co-Chair:** Virginie Zoumenou, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

**Secretary:** Marcus Coleman, Louisiana State University

**Strengthen Impact Evaluation Working Group:**

Hannah Dankbar, NC State, Chair

**Resource Bank Working Group:**

Janie Burney, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Chair

Russ Garner, Mississippi State University, Co-Chair

**Successful Models Working Group:**

Quisto Settle, Oklahoma State University, Chair

Dave Lamie, Clemson University, Co-Chair

**Learning Communities Working Group:**

Leslie Hossfeld, Clemson University, Chair

Iris Crosby, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, Co-Chair

**Meeting Overview**

SERA-47 Local & Regional Foods annual meeting allowed extension and research colleagues in the Southern region to come and share the great work they are doing and explore how it might be expanded throughout the region. The 2020 annual meeting took place virtually via Zoom due to COVID-19 and was hosted by the Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University.

The objectives of the 2020 Annual Meeting were to:

* Develop a vision for 2021 and set the stage for the new 5-year proposal for SERA-47.
* Discuss work completed, identify future action plans, and select leadership for each working group.
* Learn what is happening around local and regional foods in the region, especially related to the impact of COVID-19, social justice/equity, and food access.

138 individuals registered for the Annual Meeting from 1862 Land Grant Universities, 1890 Land Grant Universities, Non-Land Grant Universities, and individuals external to higher education. The registrant breakdown is as follows:

* 1862 Land Grant: 81
* 1890 Land Grant: 42
* Non-Land Grant: 6
* External to Higher Education: 9

The institutions and organizations represented included:

* Alabama Extension System & A&M University
* Alabama A&M University
* Alcorn State University
* Center for Regional Food Systems
* Clemson University
* Colorado State University Extension
* Louisiana State University & LSU AgCenter
* Mississippi State University
* North Carolina State Extension, NC State, & NC A&T State University
* Oklahoma State University
* Prairie View A&M University
* Southern Rural Development Center
* Southern University A&M & Agricultural Research and Extension Center
* Sullen Services
* Texas Center for Local Food
* Tuskegee University & Cooperative Extension
* University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program
* University of Florida/IFAS Extension & University of Florida
* University of Arkansas & Extension
* University of Kentucky
* University of Maryland Eastern Shore
* University of Nebraska-Lincoln
* University of Puerto Rico, Agricultural Experiment Station
* University of Tennessee Extension
* USDA Ag Marketing
* USDA – NIFA
* Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, & Virginia State University

Actual meeting attendance throughout out the annual meeting included:

* Total Unique Attendees: 69
* Attended All Days: 21
* Day 1 Only: 14
* Day 2 Only: 16
* Day 3 Only: 3
* Days 1&2 Only: 14
* Days 1&3 Only: 2
* Days 2&3 Only: 5

**Summary of Meeting Day 1 (12/9/20)**

Karen Vines, Virginia Tech, 2020 Chair SERA-47 opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and gave an organizational overview for new participants. Karen also presented information related to all the institutions and organizations that were represented during the meeting. Marcus Coleman, Louisiana State University, 2020 Secretary SERA-47, presented the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting.

2020 working group chairpersons also gave greetings on behalf of each working group and gave an overview of each working group to inform new participants as to how they can get involved in SERA-47. The 2020 working croup chairpersons are as follows:

* Strengthen Impact Evaluation – Hannah Dankbar, NC State, Chair
* Resource Bank – Janie Burney, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Chair
* Successful Models – Quisto Settle, Oklahoma State University, Chair
* Learning Communities – Leslie Hossfeld, Clemson University, Chair

The day ended with individual working group breakout sessions where each working group worked to wrap up 2020 and begin the planning process for 2021.

**Summary of Meeting Day 2 (12/10/20)**

Day 2 of the annual meeting consisted of a professional development webinar and additional time for working group planning meetings.

The Learning Communities Working Group held a webinar as a part of the SERA-47 professional development. The title of the webinar was “Operationalizing Equity Across Land Grants and their Partners Through Local Food Systems”. The webinar was in panel discussion format. The agenda for the webinar was as follows:

* Welcome and SERA-47 Working Groups Overview
**Karen Vines**, Virginia Tech, 2020 SERA-47 Chair
* Introductions and Webinar Overview
**Leslie Hossfeld**, Clemson University, Co-Chair
**Iris Crosby**, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, Co-Chair
* Overview of historical relationship between land grant universities in the context of racial equity and food systems
**Rich Pirog**, Center for Regional Food Systems, Michigan State University
* Racial equity in the food system panel
**Shorlette Ammons**, Community Based Food Systems Coordinator, Center for Environmental Food Systems, North Carolina State University
**Felicia Bell**, Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, National Center for Appropriate Technology
**Jennifer Taylor**, Professor and Farmer, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU)
* Discussion with SERA-47 members on ways to collaborate and work together across the southern region on food justice and equity through local food systems.

The day ended with additional time for working groups to meet and wrap up any outstanding business.

**Summary of Day 3 (12/11/20)**

Karen Vines, Virginia Tech, 2020 Chair SERA-47, opened day 3 of the annual meeting with a welcome. The group was excited to welcome Dr. Parag Chitnis, Acting Director, of USDA NIFA to give an update regarding NIFA activities. Working group chairpersons and co-chairpersons also reported on their 2021 leadership and plans of work.

SERA-47 Visioning Group members lead a discussion on the preparation of the new SERA proposal that is due in 2021. The visioning group is led by the following members:

* Vivian Carro-Figueroa, University of Puerto Rico
* Hannah Dankbar, NC State University
* Dave Lamie, Clemson University

Administrative advisors also gave remarks during the session. The 2020 administrative advisors were:

* Ed Jones, Virginia Tech
* Robert Houtz, University of Kentucky

To wrap up the annual meeting, Karen Vines, Virginia Tech, gave her final remarks and reflections as outgoing chairperson. Jayesh Samtani, Virginia Tech, was elected unopposed as incoming SERA-47 Secretary. Virginie Zoumenou, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, 2021 Chair SERA-47 gave final remarks to close out the 2020 annual meeting.

**Working Group Reports**

**Learning Communities**

Working Group Members for 2020 in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** | **Name** | **Institution** |
| Leslie Hossfeld | Clemson University | Karen Munden | Virginia Tech |
| Christine Coker | Mississippi St. University Extension | Debra Jones | Virginia St. University |
| Diego Thompson | Mississippi State University | Kathleen Liang | North Carolina A&T State University |
| Carl Mostenbocker | Louisiana St. University AgCenter Extension | Iris Crosby | University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff |
| Leah Powley | Aramark | Jennifer Taylor | Florida A&M University |

Prospective members for 2021 in attendance in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Claudette Jones | Mississippi St. University |
| Carolyn Gahn | Aramark |

The working group outlined accomplishments for the group during 2020, as well as the expectations that were met and the impact of their accomplishments. These included:

* A webinar series that reached the SERA-47 membership. These webinars were also designed to strengthen the core of the working group and create awareness for emerging issues in food systems.
* A professional development webinar that took place during the annual meeting that reached 88 virtual participants. The video from the webinar will also be distributed widely.

Other group accomplishments included:

* A webinar of racial justice in the food system
* Overall SERA-47 awareness.
* Aramark members joined the working group to assist SERA-47 members in sourcing local products into campus dining as well as identifying barriers and opportunities.

In 2021, the working group will host bi-monthly webinars on the 2nd Monday of each month with the goal of strengthening the SERA-47 community and bringing awareness to key issues pertaining to land grant universities in the southern regions, especially around racial justice. The group will also work to bridge opportunities amongst members in the southern region to work across institutions.

**Resource Bank**

Working Group Members for 2020 in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Virginie Zoumenou | University of Maryland Eastern Shore  |
| Karen Vines | Virginia Tech |
| Russ Garner | SRDC |
| Marcus Coleman | LSU |

Prospective members for 2021 in attendance in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Sydney Melhado | LSU AgCenter |
| Bizhen Hu | Oklahoma State University |
| Claudette Jones | MS State Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development |
| Makenzie Miller | LSU AgCenter |
| Orlando Trainer | Mississippi |
| Janet Sullen | Tuskegee University |

The working group outlined accomplishments for the group during 2020, as well as the expectations that were met and the impact of their accomplishments. These included:

* Development of a Resource Bank website, which serves as a repository of information and resources from campuses related to food systems.
* The group engaged undergraduate students from Virginia Tech in a community service course in the development of the website and identifying resources. This increased availability and visibility of a larger number of resources. The group also connected with other institutions and agencies for the development of this website.
* Website: [SERA 47 Resource Bank (extension.org)](https://sera-47.extension.org/)

**Strengthening Impact**

Working Group Members for 2020 in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Hannah Dankbar | North Carolina State University |
| Dara Bloom | North Carolina State University |
| Vivian Carro Figueroa | University of Puerto Rico |

Prospective members for 2021 in attendance in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Catherine | University of Florida |
| Crystal Beese  | Louisiana State University |
| Alethea | USDA-FNS |
| McKenzie Miller | Louisiana State University |

Many of the working group’s plans were postponed due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward the group will continue to gather information for land grant institutions across the region regarding how they define local foods, which parts of the food system they work in, and what data they are gathering. The group will use this information to find shared indicators that they can gather across the region to highlight shared efforts.

**Successful Models**

Working Group Members for 2020 in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Steve Turner | Mississippi State University |
| James Barnes | Mississippi State University |
| Karen Vines | Virginia Tech |
| Dave Lamie | Clemson University |

Prospective members for 2021 in attendance in attendance at the annual meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Institution** |
| Jessica Sullivan | Univ. of Florida |
| Kathleen Liang | North Carolina A&T State University |
| Hermon Maclin | Virginia Tech |
| Maria Bampasidou | Louisiana State University  |
| Jayesh Samtani | Virginia Tech |
| Stacey Stangel | Central State University |

The Successful Models working group was able to draft an interview guide and select target states for the case study project looking at successful models for local food systems among land grant universities. The working group was unable to collect data in the summer of 2020 as originally planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interview guide has been modified to account for any changes that may have occurred to the pandemic, and the case study interviews will be conducted in the summer of 2021.