



## **NERCRD Request for Applications: Center Scholars (2)**

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development seeks applications from faculty and educators in the Northeast U.S. to support the Center in carrying out its mission. The successful applicant will remain at his or her home institution and enter into a professional services agreement with The Center and become a **NERCRD Center Scholar** for a period of up to two years. The Center Scholar will receive an annual payment of \$5,000 for professional services rendered.

We seek **two different individuals** to fill these roles, in one of each of the Center's following programming areas (we are looking for one person in each area):

Food Technology Development and Transfer to the private sector (Entrepreneurship)  
Land Use and Balanced Use of Natural Resources

Each Center Scholar is expected to coordinate and convene regional research and extension activities in one of the Center's core programming areas. Specific expectations are to:

1. organize or host two to three educational webinars annually that include an evaluation component (speakers and topics can be chosen in consultation with the Center's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Board of Directors);
2. host quarterly conference calls with stakeholders to provide updates from the States about emerging issues in the region in the programming area and document these;
3. gather current information for the Center's website on relevant issues and resources in the programming area for wider sharing; and
4. facilitate the programmatic planning, in conjunction with TAC members, of a future (2014) regional conference similar to the earlier What Works conferences (<http://nercrd.psu.edu/Entrepreneurship/WhatWorksIIWksp.html>) in the respective programming areas.

Each Scholar will report separately to the Center's director, Dr. Stephan J. Goetz, on activities and progress.

This activity should complement and contribute to the applicant's existing work, while allowing him or her to work at the regional level. It is an opportunity for individuals to leverage their work across the Northeast region, and nationally, to become more closely integrated with The Northeast Center and its partner networks, and to develop specific impact measures and evaluation of community and economic development efforts. The Northeast Center's Board of Directors, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee, is sponsoring this activity with the expectation of improved research and extension integration across the region,

stronger networks among the land grant institutions, enhanced knowledge and relationships among stakeholders, as well as credible documentation of outcomes and impacts.

Applicants should already be working in the programming area in which they are applying, and clearly indicate the area in their application. A Ph.D. degree is preferred but applicants with a Master's degree and substantive experience also will be considered. This activity involves integration across research and outreach functions, as well as networking efforts. Preference will be given to applicants who can provide strong evidence of organizational, facilitation and communications skills, as well as experience with integration across these functions. In addition, knowledge of on-going research and outreach programming in the Northeast region in the area of interest is also preferred.

In their letter of application individuals should include ideas for measuring impacts of their proposed work and also outline ideas about the nature and content of the first webinar they will be organizing or hosting. To apply, please send a CV plus one-page letter of interest to [sgoetz@psu.edu](mailto:sgoetz@psu.edu) by no later than Midnight ET on **February 28, 2014**. The expected starting date is May 2014.