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Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

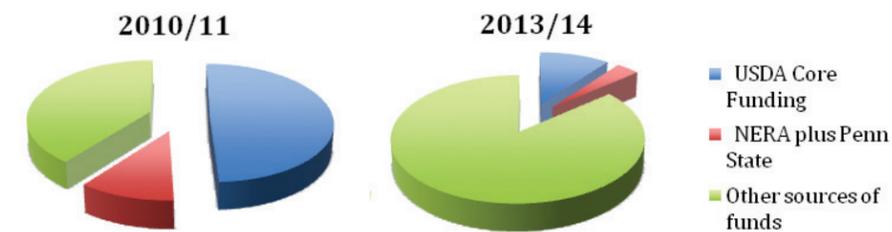
2013 Highlights



Economic Development Entrepreneurship Food Systems Land Use

Perspectives on NERCRD Funding

NIFA funding of the RRDCs continued to decline with the federal budget sequester (-7.8%) in 2013/14, while NERA maintained its support at previous levels and Penn State's contribution increased.



The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development receives core funds from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and the Pennsylvania State University, College of Agricultural Sciences.

This material is based upon work supported by annual base funding through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or those of other funders.

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Download our entire annual report

You can access our full-length annual report using this QR code, or by visiting us on the web: <http://nercrd.psu.edu/>



In 2013, we implemented a number of recommendations made by our Technical Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Foremost among these was a series of webinars related to regional food systems. Organized and hosted by Center Scholar Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights, the webinars showcased the work of multiple colleagues from around the region.



exemplary and unprecedented national research collaboration, and it has already generated a sizeable volume of policy research. With generous support from Farm Foundation, we produced two events at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, this year, raising the Centers' profiles.

I invite you to learn more about our activities by downloading the entire 2013 annual report. Details can be found on the back page.

Center staff gave numerous invited presentations at major regional meetings, sharing key research and outreach findings. We also made significant progress on our externally funded grants, including the signature Food Systems project, Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE). By all accounts, this project is advancing very well and it is providing remarkable learning opportunities for all concerned – across disciplines, institutions, states and place-based organizations.

We are profoundly thankful to all the talented and dedicated partners who work with us on these projects, and who advise us, including the NERCRD's Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors. In addition, our work is guided by an EFSNE Board of Directors and two NARDeP Advisory Boards. Without these and other key collaborators, a small Center such as ours could not function effectively, or make such an impact.

Our NIFA-funded think tank, the National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (NARDeP) Center, is an

Stephan J. Goetz, Ph.D.
 Director, NERCRD

University Park, PA
 December 2013

Enhancing the capacity of Land Grant Universities to foster regional prosperity and rural development.

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building capacity

Two Successful Webinars Hosted by Center Scholar

Center Scholar Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights of West Virginia University hosted two successful webinars on local and regional foods this year. More than 130 people attended the live webinars, and web visitors continue to access the archived recordings that are available online. The webinars served to improve research and extension integration across the region and to strengthen networks among land-grant and related institutions in the Northeast.

130
live webinar participants

Each webinar was moderated by Kate Clancy of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and featured speakers representing 11 institutions in the Northeast, including six of our partner land-grant institutions:

- Cornell University
- Penn State University
- Rutgers University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- University of Vermont

More info at: <http://goo.gl/CMj8Ge>



Some participants' comments

"Thanks for the chance to share and learn! You are a Dream Team!"

"Great webinar, Dee and Kate! What rich presentations you each gave. Thank You!"

"Thanks to Ted, Dee and Kate for all you did to get us all connected and our slides visible! Very interesting presentations everyone. Stephan, thank you for supporting this in your program."

Foundations of Practice Back By Popular Demand

The Foundations of Practice national course was offered again, building on past Center investments; the course was led by Mary Peabody (University of Vermont) and Heidi Mousseilleseux Kunzman (Cornell University).

Registrants included individuals from government, NGOs, and Extension, as well as groups, like a University of Maine community development class. A number of the

Extension educators who registered were new to the Extension system. The seven-week series featured a weekly 90-minute webinar focusing on topics that include demographics, economic development, strategic planning and power structures.

66
course participants

leading innovative research

National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center

Led by the Northeast Center, the RRDC directors collaborated in competing for a USDA/NIFA grant to establish NARDeP, a flexible national network of scientists and analysts ready to quickly meet the research needs of local, state and federal policy makers. The four RRDCs have demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a team to develop and deliver national



programs by drawing on land-grant college and university resources. In just over a year, the NARDeP Center has tapped the expertise of land-grant researchers to develop and deliver 21 policy-relevant analyses for national leaders in the public and private sectors, many of which are available as publications on the newly launched NARDeP website.

sharing discoveries

Selected Invited Presentations

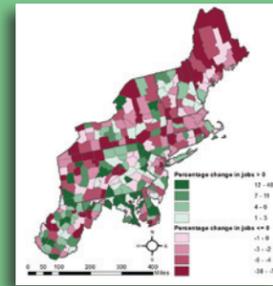
"Economic and Socio-Demographic Trends in the Northeast United States," presented at Northeast 4-H Leadership Group, March 2013

"Building Capacity and Resilience in the Northeast Agricultural and Food System," presented at the 2013 Joint Summer Session of NERA and NEED Associations, July 2013.

"Assembling Multi-Disciplinary Teams for NIFA Grant Applications," presented at a Post-Conference Professional Development Workshop organized by Dr. Liang at the AAEA 2013 Annual Meeting, August 2013

"Information Networks, Social Capital and Poverty Reduction," presented at the Atlanta Federal Reserve, December 2013

9
invited presentations



Documenting the Effects of the Great Recession

As part of our presentation to the 4-H Leadership Group, we discovered astonishing differences in how wage-and-salary jobs and self-employment have changed over the course of the last decade in Northeastern U.S. counties. These maps underscore the on-going jobless recovery since 2000, and the great challenges facing the nation's workforce. They are available at: <http://goo.gl/ACFVLQ>.

Center-Related Publications: Selected Titles

"Predicting the Economic Resilience of U.S. Counties from Industry Input-Output Accounts," presented at the Southern Regional Science Association meeting, Washington, DC, April 2013.

"Linkages Between Community-Focused Agriculture, Farm Sales, and Regional Growth," *Economic Development Quarterly*, in press.

"Why We Need Federal Statistical Data for States and Counties," *Choices*, September 2013; <http://goo.gl/FIHKrQ>



"This (paper) could fundamentally change how we think about resilience and disaster recovery."

– comment by audience member

15
center-related publications



"Thank you very much for your very informative Choices article on the critical role of federal statistical data at the regional and local levels."

– Steve Pierson, Ph.D., Director of Science Policy, American Statistical Association

New Health and Human Services Grant Led By NCRCRD

The four Regional Rural Development Centers, led by the North Central Regional Rural Development Center, have been awarded \$2.7 million to develop and deliver national programs aimed at improving community health outcomes.

Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE)



This year, the EFSNE team had its second all-team meeting, giving attendees an opportunity to have the trans-disciplinary conversations and collaborations that are crucial to the success of a systems-level project like this. Visit the EFSNE project website at: <http://goo.gl/91Gr9J>

Website and Newsletter Updates

In support of our ongoing interest in improving efficiency and effectiveness in Center operations, we've recently migrated our web content to a content management system. The more accessible foundation will improve our web visitors' experiences, and it has allowed us to automate the process of compiling our quarterly newsletter. Our newsletter allows us to share the work of our partners with our subscribers. In 2013, we reported on over 40 activities of our partners.

Join our 1,000+ newsletter subscribers! Send a note to nercrd@psu.edu to be added to our email list. or visit us online at: nercrd.psu.edu

6k+
website visitors since April's launch

6
grants totalling
\$1.7 million
in additional funding

For more information on our funded projects, visit:
<http://goo.gl/91CA04>