

Enhancing Coordination Between Land-Grant Universities and Colleges

Committee

Kathryn J. Boor

Chair

Kathryn J. Boor, PhD, is the Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education at Cornell University. Previously, she was the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. Her research focuses on identifying biological factors that affect transmission of bacteria in food systems. Dr. Boor is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, the International Academy of Food Science and Technology, the Institute of Food Technologists, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Dairy Science Association. She was named a 2018 Woman of Distinction by the New York State Senate. She earned an MS in food science from the University of Wisconsin and a PhD in microbiology from the University of California, Davis. She serves on the Board of Directors for Seneca Foods Corporation, International Flavors and Fragrance, the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, the Science Board for the US Food and Drug Administration, and the New York State Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council. She served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Review of the Use of Scientific Criteria and Performance Standards for Safe Food.

Olga U. Bolden-Tiller

Member

Olga U. Bolden-Tiller, PhD, is a Professor, Dean and Research Director for the College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Related Sciences at Tuskegee University. She has served as the Director for the National Science Foundation (NSF) funded Integrative Biosciences Research Experiences for Undergraduates program and directed several summer pre-college programs. She currently serves as the State Coordinator for the Alabama Youth Institute. She teaches animal science courses and maintains a research program on elucidating the molecular mechanisms of gonadal function in rodents and ruminants. Her programs are funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), NSF, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the state of Alabama. She serves as leader in many professional societies, including the Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences, the American Society of Animal Sciences, the National Goat Consortium and the Society for the Study of Reproduction. Dr. Bolden-Tiller has received several awards, including the College of Agriculture, Environmental and Natural Sciences' Faculty Performance Award for Service and Teaching, the Russell Brown Distinguished Scientist Award, and the Faculty Achievement Award. She is recognized as an Opportunities for Underrepresented Scholars Fellow and is an alumnus of the LEAD21 Program, the Fielding/Conclave Leadership Academy, and the Food Systems Leadership Institute Fellows Program. She holds a PhD in animal sciences from the University of Missouri- Columbia where she matriculated as an USDA National Needs Fellow.

Dina J. Chacón-Reitzel

Member

Dina Chacón-Reitzel, MBA, is the Executive Director of the New Mexico Beef Council since 1991. She was named by the New Mexico State University (NMSU) College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Science (ACES) to serve as one of three delegates to the US Department of Agriculture's Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) for NMSU since 2003. She has also been on the National CARET Executive Board for twelve years and as Chair of CARET for two years. In her role as a CARET delegate, she advocates for federal funds in Washington, DC for the college. She was appointed to serve as Chair on NMSU Board of Regents for two years, and currently as Vice-Chair. Dina also served on the Board of the Western Rural Development Center, a collaboration of the Western Land Grant Universities. Dina has served on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Beef Safety Research Committee for over 20 years. She has been awarded the New Mexico Outstanding Leadership Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award from NMSU College of ACES and the Industry Partner Award from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Dina has been honored by New Mexico agriculture organizations, including the New Mexico Cattle Grower's Association's King Service Award and the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association's Vaquero Award. She is a graduate of Leadership New Mexico. Dina earned her Master's in Business Administration from NMSU.

Martin A. Draper

Member

Martin Draper, PhD, serves as Associate Dean for research and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Kansas State University. He has previously served as Plant Pathology Department Head at Kansas State University, National Program Leader for Plant Pathology and Integrated Pest Management with the US Department of Agriculture. He had also served as Extension Plant Pathologist at South Dakota State University (SDSU) where he taught undergraduates and led an applied research program to complement his extension educational programming directed at producers and agricultural stakeholders and decision makers, and Director of the Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab and Seed Health Testing Lab at North Dakota State University (NDSU), where he taught introductory plant pathology, provided service to stakeholders. In his positions, he has had exposure to field crops, horticultural crops and home garden and landscape plants. He has also consulted with the Serbian government on a restructuring of their extension service and has provided teaching and outreach support in Bolivia. Dr. Draper is a member of the American Phytopathological Society, American Evaluation Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Gamma Sigma Delta, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Phi Sigma, and Sigma Xi. He was recognized by the US Secretary of Agriculture, and by the SD Agri-Business Association, the SD Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the SDSU Extension Specialists Association. Dr. Draper received his MS and PhD in plant pathology at North Dakota State University.

Ronnie D. Green

Member

Ronnie D. Green, PhD, is Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska's flagship, Land-Grant and Big Ten institution. He served on the animal science faculties of Texas Tech University and Colorado State University, and as the national program leader for animal production research for the US Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and executive secretary of the White House's interagency working group on animal genomics within the National Science and Technology Council. Prior to returning to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Green served as a global executive for Pfizer Animal Health's animal genomics business. He is a past President of both the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and the National Block and Bridle Club, and has served in a number of leadership positions for the US Beef Improvement Federation, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Pork Board, the National Academy of Sciences, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and Alpha Gamma Rho national fraternity. He is a fellow of ASAS and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was honored with the American Society of Animal Science's Morrison Award, the highest international academic recognition for an animal scientist. He received his MS in animal science from Colorado State University and his PhD in animal breeding and genetics jointly at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the USDA-ARS. He is a member of a number of boards, including the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors, Neogen Corporation, and Supporters of Agricultural Research.

Moses T. Kairo

Member

Moses Kairo, PhD, is Professor, Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs in the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Prior to joining UMES, he was Professor of entomology and Director of the Center for Excellence in Biological Control at Florida A&M University for nearly seven years. He also served as the Associate Research Director for their 1890 Land-Grant Institutions programs. Dr. Kairo has previously worked for CABI, an international development organization, where he served as the lead scientist and regional representative of the organization's activities in the Caribbean and Latin America region. His research interests have focused on biological control, invasive species management and crop protection. Over the years, he has carried out work in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. He has served the land-grant community through various bodies or committees of the Board of Agriculture Assembly of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). He has recently completed his term as the Chair of the Experiment Station Section of APLU. He received an MS in applied entomology from Imperial College, London and a PhD in entomology from the University of London.

Jan E. Leach

Member

Jan E. Leach, PhD, is a University Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean for Research College of Agriculture at Colorado State University. She is a plant pathologist who studies the molecular basis of plant disease susceptibility and resistance and how these responses are influenced by interactions with the environment. Dr. Leach is the current President of the International Society for Plant Pathology. She is a Fellow and a past President of the American Phytopathological Society (APS), a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. In 2019, Dr. Leach was awarded the Agropolis Fondation Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize for Agriculture and Food for Distinguished Scientist, and in 2020, she was presented the APS Award of Distinction, an award that has been given only 17 times in the 112 years of APS's history. Dr. Leach was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 2021. She holds a PhD in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an MS in microbiology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Leach was the chair of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine study on California Agricultural Research Priorities: Pierce's Disease and currently serves as member of the Board of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Karen I. Plaut

Member

Karen Plaut, PhD, is the Glenn W. Sample Dean of the College of Agriculture at Purdue University where she administers teaching, research and extension programs. She is responsible for the Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension Service and a number of state regulatory agencies. She was previously the Senior Associate Dean for Research and the Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station at Purdue University. Earlier in her career, she was on faculty at the University of Vermont, followed by two years as lead scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) International Space Station Biological Research project. She then became the Chair of the Animal Science Department at University of Vermont and, later at Michigan State University, before joining Purdue University. As Professor of Animal Sciences at Purdue University, Dr. Plaut leads a research program in mammary gland biology. She has served as panel reviewer and has received funding from the US Department of Agriculture, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and NASA. She was elected as a Fellow of the American Dairy Science Association in 2020. Dr. Plaut earned her MS from Pennsylvania State University and PhD in animal science from Cornell University. She is a member of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Wendy Powers

Member

Wendy Powers, PhD, is the Associate Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of California. As the Associate Vice President, Dr. Powers oversees county-based Cooperative Extension, 12 statewide programs and institutes, and 9 Research and Extension Centers for the University of California system. She spends much of her time building partnerships with partners internal and external to the University of California system. She serves as the Associate Director of Cooperative Extension and the Associate Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station since June 2016. Dr. Powers started her career as an Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist in the Animal Science Department at Iowa State University. After 10 years, Dr. Powers moved to Michigan State University (MSU) for another 10 years as a Professor/Extension Specialist and Director of Environmental Stewardship for Animal Agriculture at the College of Agriculture, Animal Science and Biosystems & Agriculture Engineering. During this time, she spent 4 years as the first Director of the MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute. Dr. Powers earned a PhD in animal science and an MS in dairy science from the University of Florida.

Ryan F. Quarles

Member

Ryan F. Quarles, PhD, is the Commissioner of Agriculture in Kentucky. First elected to that position in 2015, he was re-elected in 2019. Under his leadership, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture started several new programs, including initiatives to combat hunger and connect Kentucky farmers to new markets. Dr. Quarles's outspoken advocacy for farmers has been recognized on the regional and national level. He has served as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, as President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and as Chairman of the Republican Agriculture Commissioners Committee. From 2010 to 2014, Dr. Quarles served as member of the House of Representatives. His office supports land-grant events with Kentucky State University and the University of Kentucky. Dr. Quarles graduated with a Master's degree in higher education from Harvard University. He received his law degree from the University of Kentucky and his Doctorate in higher education from Vanderbilt University.

Harold Schmitz

Member

Harold Schmitz, PhD, is co-Founder and General Partner of March Capital US, LLC, and a Senior Scholar in the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Davis. Previously, he served two terms as the Art and Carlyse Ciocca Visiting Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Davis. He worked in Mars, Incorporated for 25 years, where he developed and executed the company's global strategy for advanced research and innovation at the intersection of food, agriculture, health, and sustainability via collaborations across sectors, including the land-grant universities and colleges. He is an advisor to the Novo Nordisk Foundation's BioInnovation Institute in Denmark and to the Artificial Intelligence Institute for Next-Generation Food Systems located at the University of California, Davis co-funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Science Foundation. He was recognized as Outstanding Alumnus of the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food, and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas, and was elected a Life Member in the Council on Foreign Relations. He was a USDA National Needs Research Fellow during 1990 - 1993 at North Carolina State University, where he trained in the intersection of food, agriculture, and health and received his PhD in food science. He received his MS in food science from the University of Illinois.

Steve Yanni

Member

Steve Yanni, PhD, is the Land Grant Director for Bay Mills Community College (BMCC), a Tribally controlled college located in Upper Michigan along the shores of Lake Superior. He has been working with the Bay Mills Indian Community in various capacities for 23 years. Prior to working with Bay Mills, he was a faculty member for 18 years at Lake Superior State University and worked for Michigan State University as a County Extension Director. In his current position he oversees BMCC's efforts as a 1994 Land Grant Institution. Current areas of focus include: continued development of BMCC's Waishkey Bay Farm as a teaching, research, and incubator facility focusing on sustainable agriculture and food production that is consistent with traditional Anishinaabek values, development of academic programs in sustainable agriculture, community development and health promotion efforts, overseeing BMCC's Mukwa Health and Fitness Education Center, and assisting with the evolution of the Michigan Inter-Tribal Land Grant Extension System (MILES). Steve also serves as BMCC's liaison with the Higher Learning Commission, coordinates research efforts by and with BMCC, and represents 1994 institutions on APLU's Policy Board of Directors. Steve earned his PhD from Michigan State University.