

**USDA, ARS, Mid South Area
Workforce Diversity Committee (WDC) Teleconference Minutes
May 27, 1999**

The following members participated on the call:

Edgar G. King, Chairperson, Stoneville, MS
Betty Shepherd, Co-Chairperson, Auburn, AL
Archie Tucker, Member, Stoneville, MS
Patricia A. Brown, Member/ Secretary, Stoneville, MS
Rita Keeling, Member, Stoneville, MS
Carlos Alonso, Member, Oxford, MS
Gay McCain, Member, Mississippi State, MS
J. P. Jordan, Member, SRRC, New Orleans, LA
C. David Ambrogio, SRRC, New Orleans, LA
Anthony Edmund, EEO Manager, Mid South/ South Atlantic Areas

Each member reported on personnel diversification progress at his/her location:

New Orleans, LA: Dr. Jordan - Diversification - Added 4 minorities (3 SY's, 1 Cat 2; 2 African Americans, 2 Asians); 3 Technicians, 3 females, (1 is African American); 19 students (12 females: 1 Hispanic, 1 Asian, 5 African Americans, 5 Caucasians; 7 males; 2 African Americans, 2 Hispanics, 3 Caucasians), 1 NACU student at Houma, funded by SRRC, 1 HACU at Baton Rouge funded by Headquarters. Upward mobility/Career Enhancement □ Pat Winston at SRRC, and Brenda Aysenne at Houma, LA.

New Orleans, LA: David Ambrogio - reported on the NACU Program. Dr. Duke did not receive information on this program. David Ambrogio will make sure all locations receive this information; he will personally distribute the NACU information next year to all locations.

Oxford, MS: Dr. Alonso - Diversification - Have several visiting scientists from China and Spain; they have agreements with universities in England, Spain, and Land Grant Universities; Charlie Cooper has hired several students.

Oxford, MS: Dr. Duke - Has 2 post docs - 1 female, 1 Asian American. He has 5 female temporary workers, 4 male temporary workers (2 are African Americans). He is looking at creating a permanent technician position that a current minority employee would be a good candidate for. Has 4 NIH trainees of which 2 are African Americans. He has an Office Automation position being announced which he has encouraged a minority to apply. He has a Molecular Biologist vacancy; there is a good Hispanic candidate.

Auburn, AL: Betty Shepherd - SY's - Have hired 1 White Female, 1 White Male, Technicians □ 1 White Female, 1 Asian Post doc. Bobby Washington located a black male for L/A position. Has 1 white female apprentice, 1 Black, male intern. Has two minority hires from Tuskegee on Specific Cooperative Agreement. Have talked to schools, have 1 SY vacancy, no SCEP appts.

Mississippi State, MS: Gay McCain - Location has hired 1 Black Male SY; 1 Black, Male, SCEP; Have 3 Res Apprentices, of which are HQ funded, 1 Locally funded. Two other SCEP positions are targeted for hiring.

Poplarville, MS: Barbara Smith - Hired 1 White, Male SY, 1 White, Male Post doc, 1 White, Female, Student, HQ funded Res Apprentice, Black, Female. RSA's have hired 2 black males, 1 black female, and 1 white male for the summer. Has a permanent technician vacancy. There is one PFT technician vacancy.

Stoneville, MS: Rita Keeling - Have 3 SCEP appointments in the Area, 1 at SRRC, 1 at Mississippi State, and 1 at Stoneville, MS. The Stoneville SCEP is also an 1890 Scholar. Refer to the bulletin 98-403, dated 10/28/98 on Career Enhancement (formerly known as Upward Mobility Program). Have a number of summer hires. Do not have a final total yet. Will have for next time.

Stoneville, MS: Archie Tucker - Archie reported on the progress here at the Stoneville location: Area funding (\$5,000.00) in support of the Alcorn State University AG HOPE; 1 1890 scholar attending Alcorn. Advised of the planned visit to Alabama A&M University to visit with the Dean, School of Agriculture (1890 scholar); gave an overview of the MANRRS Conference in Roanoke, VA; advised of the summer students (35 or more minorities); advised of the Black History Program; Teacher FIRST STEP Program; and Stoneville's representation at the Youth Motivational Task Force Meeting, Alabama A&M and University of Arkansas at pine Bluff.

Tony Edmund, EEO Manager: Offered suggestions.

The next meeting will be held August 3-4, 1999, at Stoneville, MS, in conjunction with the Headquarters' Civil Rights Leadership Meeting. All members agreed. Each Location member will be expected to present current staffing and plans for diversification at his/her location. Additionally, Betty Shepherd will present an overview of the WDC and Carlos Alonso will review activities of the USDA National Hispanic committee for the Civil Rights Leadership Group.

Due to the reassignment of Brian Brazil and the untimely death of Herbert Pack, two new members were selected. They were Jose' Villa to represent the Baton Rouge location, as well as the Category III support scientist slot, and Maureen Wright, SRRC, New Orleans, LA, to represent the Category I scientist slot.