

# CSREES PARTNERSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

## PURPOSE

To annually recognize exemplary work from a team or individual at a land-grant university or other cooperating institution or organization supported by CSREES. This program will allow recognition of outstanding contributions in support of the USDA mission as part of the strategic goals of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

## CATEGORIES

This program recognizes outstanding achievements in the following four categories:

### **Category I – *Mission Integration***

This involves implementation of a program or project which incorporates, in a meaningful way, full integration of research, education, and extension and exhibits an understanding of the complementary nature of these three functions.

### **Category II – *Multistate Efforts***

The program or project must show a partnership with two or more states that responds to critical needs important to each state. It must show how the states contributed by providing enhancement in breadth or depth of resources to the program. The fiscal relationships should represent equity in access and distribution of resources and the individuals or team must show a commitment to evaluation of the impact in all states participating.

### **Category III – *Innovative Program Models***

The program or project should impress the reviewers with response to an issue or need that combines resources (including disciplines) in new ways and/or develops an unusual response to a common problem. The program or project should include response to adverse or critical/emerging regional or national issues, or engagement of stakeholders or customers in program planning or implementation.

### **Category IV – *Effective and Efficient Use of Resources***

This would include projects or programs that improved efficiency and effectiveness by using:

- Partnerships
- Technologies
- Prioritization of programs / budget allocation
- Reduction of obsolete, or less used, programs
- Innovation

- Risk-taking

## **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for these awards, nominees must be from a land-grant university or other cooperating institution or organization supported by CSREES.

**For team awards, all members of the team must have played a substantial or significant role or made a significant contribution to the work of the project or program. Nominations must include brief but specific documentation of the substantial or significant role of each team member.**

All nominations must be related to programs or projects that have been in place for **at least three of the last five calendar years**.

Each nomination must include a synopsis of the following:

1. Situation to which the program or project responded.
2. Objectives/goals (including expected outcomes).
3. Research, education, or extension project or program developed.
4. What was done (brief).
5. Method(s) for evaluating impact.
6. Measurable outcomes realized to date.

All nominations must be approved and endorsed by the Dean, Director, or Administrator for the lead institution(s). Team awards do not need the signature of the Dean, Director, or Administrator of every person on the team, but at least one Dean or Director must vouch for all team members and must sign the nomination form signifying approval of the nomination of all team members involved.

Nominations may be submitted from land-grant universities and other cooperating institutions and organizations supported by CSREES.

CSREES employees are not eligible to submit nominations but can be a part of a nomination submitted by a partner institution.

There can be a maximum of 2 nominations total (combined total across all categories) from any one institution, meaning the entire institution – including research, education, and extension as part of one entire institution.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Nominations must demonstrate how an individual or group pro-actively excelled in one of the

four categories (see CATEGORIES above).

Nominations must clearly and succinctly articulate and demonstrate the following characteristics:

1. Exemplary program impact, including appropriate evaluation of outcomes. Include critical or unique impacts in particular.
2. National or international recognition.
3. Ongoing efforts; the program or project must have been in place for at least 3 of the last 5 calendar years.
4. Identified alignment with CSREES strategic goals, and identification of the relevant CSREES contact.

### **NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Nominations must be submitted using the attached form. Justifications must clearly and concisely address the selection criteria (see SELECTION CRITERIA above).

**All nominations must be received via fax or hardcopy by July 10, 2007**, at the following address:

USDA/ARS/HRD

ATTN: Mary Oxner, Employee Development, Performance & Recognition Staff

5601 Sunnyside Avenue, GWCC, Room 3-1282C

Beltsville, MD 20705-5107

FAX: 301-504-4435

A selection panel will evaluate the nominations and rank nominees in each respective category. The selection panel will focus on the significance, impact and outcome of the accomplishments and achievements of those nominated. The panel's recommendations will be forwarded to the CSREES Administrator for final review and approval. Nominators and nominees cannot be a part of the selection process.

### **NATURE OF RECOGNITION**

All awardees will be recognized at the annual CSREES Day of Appreciation on October 10, 2007.

### **POINT OF CONTACT**

Questions regarding this program may be directed to Mary Oxner (HRD) at (301) 504-1368 or Janet Allen (CSREES Communications Director) at (202) 720-2677.