

June 8, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Most of you are aware that the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) annual Secretary's Honor Awards Program has been significantly changed. Beginning in 2006 each USDA Under Secretary was allowed to submit a maximum of four nominations so for the Research, Education, and Economics mission area that is one for each of the four agencies. The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) recognizes there are many other outstanding contributions that our partners in the land-grant universities and other cooperating institutions and organizations have achieved. To recognize these achievements, I am happy to announce the establishment of a new **CSREES Partnership Awards Program**.

CSREES invites all land-grant universities and cooperating institutions and organizations supported by CSREES to submit nominations for the new **CSREES Partnership Awards Program**. This program will allow recognition of outstanding contributions, aligned with CSREES strategic goals, in support of the USDA mission. Awards for this year will recognize excellence in:

- Mission integration
- Multistate efforts
- Innovative program models
- Effective and efficient use of resources

Nominations can be submitted for individuals or teams. Each institution may submit up to two nominations (combined total across all categories), meaning the entire institution including research, education, and extension functions.

Specific instructions and other information regarding this awards program are attached (CSREES partnership awards program.doc). Nominations must be submitted via the CSREES Partnership Awards Nomination Form, also attached (CSREES partnership Nom-form.doc). **All nominations must be received via fax or hardcopy by July 10, 2007** according to instructions in the attached guidelines.

Winning nominations will be recognized at the annual CSREES Day of Appreciation on October 10, 2007. CSREES will pay travel expenses for one person from each winning nomination, whether it is an individual or team award.

Nominations should include only individuals or teams who have performed truly distinguished service. We ask that Deans, Directors, and Administrators thoroughly review each submission for validity of accomplishments before signing his or her approval on the nomination form.

We have many excellent examples of success in these categories across our partnership, and I look forward to recognizing great accomplishments in October.

Colien Hefferan, Administrator  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service