



**For Immediate Release**

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**The 1890 Universities Foundation Welcomes New  
Dedicated Federal Investment for 1890 Universities  
Centers of Excellence  
*Effort Initially Began in 2015 during 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Second Morrill Act of 1890***

Washington, DC – Following the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announcement of a \$4.8 million investment that Congress authorized in the FY 2019 appropriations bill to implement three Centers Of Excellence (COE) at our 1890 Land-Grant Universities (LGUs), Dr. Mortimer Neufville, President and CEO of The 1890 Universities Foundation, issued the below statement.

“The three 1890 LGUs Centers of Excellence that were originally established in 2015, in conjunction with the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating the passage of the Second Morrill Act of 1890, were not accompanied with any dedicated funding or given an appropriate level of sustainable funding.

“Thanks to the efforts of House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee Chairman Sanford Bishop (D-GA); U.S. Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC), Michael Conaway (R-TX), Marcia Fudge (D-OH), and Collin Peterson (D-MN) and U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Doug Jones (D-AL), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Richard Shelby (R-AL), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and a number of other key legislators from across the nation, the 1890 LGUs COE were formally created in the 2018 Farm Bill at an authorized funding level of \$10 million per year for five years.

“While the timing of the 2019 appropriations process, which allocated \$5 million for the 1890 COE, preceded the signing of the 2018 Farm Bill, we salute and appreciate the efforts of all of these members and their staffs for this important advancement.



“Through a competitive selection process, NIFA received applications and made awards of \$1.6 million each to three Universities for implementation of the Centers created in 2015.

“The University of Maryland Eastern Shore received an award to establish an 1890 Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development (CEIED). This Center will fund and support academic, research and Extension integrated projects and activities designed to satisfy the nation’s needs for a globally smart workforce, support critical global development needs and address transboundary research and education challenges of interest to the United States.

“Tuskegee University was awarded an 1890 Center for Integrated and Sustainable Small Farms, Ranches, and Landowners (CISFRL). The Center will fund integrated research and Extension projects in five areas: (1) Farm Commodity, Process and Systems, (2) Ranch Commodity Processes and Systems, (3) Promoting Sustainable Forestry Practices for small and underserved landowners, (4) Value added Systems and Technology, and (5) Integrated Social, Economic and Environmental Impact to support SFRLs.

“North Carolina A&T State University received funding for an 1890 Virtual Center to Motivate and Educate for Achievement. This Center will create First Generation to College Workforce Pipeline Centers, STEAM Academies and identify best practices to enhance academic achievement, access to success in the Food and Agricultural Sciences.

“The vision and goal are to work collaboratively with all of the 1890 Universities on the COE efforts, and they intend to do that.

“Through the diligent efforts of our Congressional supporters, the FY 2020 funding was increased to \$6 million to expand and merge the three COE into the six Centers authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. These COE will enhance the competitiveness of our 1890 Universities as they seek to create educational opportunities for first-generation college students, increase our participation in basic and applied sciences research and develop and execute extension programs serving disadvantaged communities and farmers.

“Again, the 1890 Universities Foundation and the entire 1890 community express our thanks to the Senators and Representatives who have and continue to assist us in establishing these COE and we look forward to working with them to achieve great successes for both the communities we serve and the country.”

A link to the USDA NIFA announcement can be found [here](#).