



JUL 30 2013

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

Office of the
Director

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20250

Dear Colleagues,

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) appreciates the many outstanding achievements of our partners in the land-grant universities and other cooperating institutions and organizations. The Partnership Awards Program was established in 2007 to recognize some of the best of these achievements.

NIFA invites all land-grant universities and cooperating institutions and organizations supported by NIFA to submit nominations for the 2013 NIFA Partnership Awards Program. This program recognizes outstanding contributions, aligned with NIFA strategic goals, in support of the USDA mission. Awards for this year will recognize excellence in:

- Mission Integration of Research, Education, and Extension
- Multistate Efforts
- Innovative Programs and Projects
- Effective and Efficient Use of Resources
- Program Improvement through Global Engagement

Nominations can be submitted for individuals or teams of up to 20 members. Each institution may submit up to a total of two nominations for the entire institution, across all 5 categories, for activity in research, education, and extension.

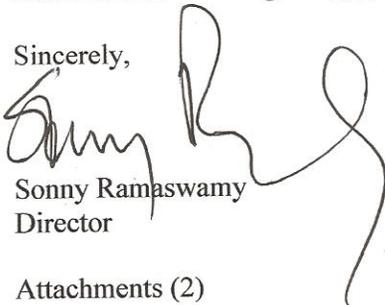
Specific instructions and other information regarding this awards program are attached (2013 NIFA Partnership Awards criteria.doc). Nominations must be submitted via the NIFA Partnership Awards Nomination Form, also attached (2013 NIFA Partnership Awards Nomination Form.doc). All signed nomination forms must be submitted by September 4, 2013, via email using scanned files that have been saved as .pdf or .jpg files to Chevon Gibson at Chevon.Gibson@ars.usda.gov according to instructions in the attached guidelines.

Winning nominations will be recognized at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) annual meeting November 10-12, 2013, in Washington, DC. NIFA 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 NIFA looks forward to recognizing great accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
Director

Attachments (2)