

## WVSU Among 1890 Land-Grant Institutions to Benefit from 2018 Farm Bill

Last December, the United States Congress voted to pass the new Farm Bill with an unprecedented price tag of \$867 billion. Farmers, ranchers, land-grant colleges and universities, agriculture researchers, extension personnel and many others applauded the passage of this 2018 Farm Bill, or the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The bill is also one of the most successful pieces of legislation for the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in their history. Some of the most salient accomplishments of this Farm Bill, which are also HBCU-exclusive funding over the next five years, include:

- New funding in the amount of \$95 million to land-grant HBCUs for student scholarships and grants.
- \$50 million for the establishment of at least three HBCU Centers of Excellence to support issues related to (a) student success and agricultural workforce development; (b) nutrition, health, wellness and quality of life; (c) farming systems, rural prosperity, and economic sustainability; (d) global food security and defense; (e) natural resources, energy, and environment; and (f) emerging technologies.
- Greater financial flexibility for cooperative extension carryover funds for the 1890s.

### Scholarships for Student at 1890 Institutions

Under Section 7117 of the bill, scholarship funding for students at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions will be provided for students who intend to pursue careers in the food and agricultural sciences, and other related disciplines as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Mandatory funding of \$10,000,000 for scholarships will begin on July 1, 2020, and will continue each of the three succeeding academic years. This translates into approximately \$500,000 per 1890 Institution annually.

In addition, the 2018 Farm Bill also authorized an additional annual appropriation of \$10,000,000 in scholarship funding over fiscal years 2020-2023 from discretionary funds. That is \$500,000 mandatory scholarship funding per 1890 University and, if successful in advocating for the discretionary funding, up to an additional \$500,000 per institution for a total of potentially \$1 million annually in scholarships.

### Creation of Centers of Excellence.

The bill also authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to establish a minimum of three centers of excellence, with each to be led by an 1890 University. The 1890 Centers of Excellence will be established to support and address pressing issues in the agricultural sector, including workforce development, nutrition and food security, economic development and emerging technologies. Specifically, the Farm Bill authorizes centers to focus on one or more of the following areas: (1) student success and workforce development; (2) nutrition, health, wellness and quality of life; (3) farming systems, rural prosperity and economic sustainability; (4) global food security and defense; (5) natural resources, energy and environment; and (6) emerging technologies. Funding has been authorized at \$10 million annually over the fiscal years comprised between 2020 and 2023.

### Carryover Waiver for Extension Funding at 1890 Universities

The bill also includes the Carryover Equity Act, which provides 1890 Institutions with greater fiscal flexibility in relation to the management of their funding to support extension programming. This includes a provision that eliminates the 20 percent carryover limit previously imposed on 1890 Extension capacity funding. Unlike 1862 land-grant universities, who have no restrictions on the carryover limit of extension funds, 1890 Institutions were only allowed to carryover 20 percent of funding from one federal fiscal year to the next. This new act allows parity and consistency among extension programs in both 1862 and 1890 systems. The added flexibility will allow 1890s to use their extension funds in a more effective and efficient manner.

## West Virginia State University Hosts "A Conversation: The History of Land-Grant at State"



Right to left: Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D., Ms. Tat'ana Dillard-Sims, President Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D., and R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.

A conversation was held on the campus of West Virginia State University (WVSU), in the newly renovated Integrated Research and Extension Building, Thursday, March 14, entitled "The History of Land-Grant Status at STATE." The one-hour intimate exchange between Drs. R. Charles Byers and Orlando F. McMeans filled audience members with historic details of the loss of land-grant status at WVSU, the sometimes non-supported and uphill journey, and the regaining of land-grant status at STATE.

The event was attended by more than

120 people, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, WVSU Board of Governors, WVSU Research & Development Board of Directors, community members, and West Virginia Senator Glenn Jefferies. Many of the vendors that assisted in the renovations were also in attendance.

Ms. Tat'ana Dillard-Sims, a senior at STATE majoring in biology, undertook the task as the master of ceremonies. WVSU's 11th President, Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins, provided the welcome and the purpose of the event.

## A Conversation cont'd



Right to left: President Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D., Sarah Greenberg, Katherine Harper, Ph.D. and Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D.

Byers, a STATE alum, retiree (faculty and administrator), consultant and author, and McMeans, Vice President for Research & Public Service, took their seats, got comfortable and began their dialogue.

The discussion began by noting that West Virginia State was established in 1891 as a result of The Second Morrill Act of 1890 as one of the original 1890 land-grant schools. With this said, STATE is the only land-grant institution that has ever lost its land-grant status.

The discussion took the audience to places like Washington, D.C., where numerous conversations were held with Senator Robert C. Byrd and to Atlanta, Ga., where many meetings were held with the leaders of 1890 Institutions. Insight was provided as to how serious then-President Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr., undertook the endeavor of re-establishing the land-grant status and mission to STATE. Those in attendance began to understand that this was not, in any way, an easy task, that there were many people and institutions that did not support WVSU's much-needed journey and did not want the land-grant status to return. And there were those times that some people tasked with this endeavor may have even given up and walked away. But Carter always took the "high road" in this endeavor, continued to move forward and kept his eye on the prize, even when he was not treated with respect.

While the conversation was taking place, one could hear a pin drop as the audience listened to hear everything that was being said. The exchange between the two was serious but had a bit of humor. It provided the experiences, trials and tribulations that took place from the surrendering of the land-grant status at STATE in 1957 to the successful regaining of land-grant status in 2000.

It was stated that a book is in the works, so

the first question to Byers and McMeans was, "when is the book coming out?" That is to be determined.

The conversation opened the eyes of many audience members and provided historical knowledge to those who just didn't know this aspect of the University's rich history. It was stated that all STATE freshmen should receive a copy of the book, "WVSU (1891–1991): From The Grove To The Stars." It is truly a great historical book.

Following the discussion, Jenkins provided a summary of "Where are we heading with land-grant in the 21st century?" He discussed the vision of WVSU Extension Service by increasing efforts in youth development, health and wellness, and increasing the University outreach to all 55 counties in West Virginia. Research at STATE continues to expand. The bioenergy research program, which is part of our Energy and Environmental Science Institute, continues to grow. The University is working on developing a multiregional 1890 Center of Excellence. Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture (or the Arts) and Mathematics (STEAM) continues to be a focus as academic programs in engineering and nursing programs grow. And, lastly, there are immediate needs for land for field space and the need for further development of facility space.

Following the President's remarks, an Open House was held to showcase the building's renovations.

"A Conversation: The History of Land-Grant Status at STATE" was an important and much-needed event. It was long overdue. As we continue to provide these educational opportunities to the WVSU family and community regarding the stellar history of this University, we should always remember the shoulders of who we stand on and how we got here.

## An Overview of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

The following information regarding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 comes from the United States Department of Justice. Additional information can be found online at <https://www.justice.gov/crt/fcs/TitleVI-Overview>.

### What is Title VI of the Civil Rights Act?

Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., was enacted as part of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

### What is Title VI compliance?

Specifically, Title VI provides that: "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits, or be subjected to discrimination under any program activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

### What is the difference between Title VI and Title VII?

While Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, Title VII prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

### Who does Title VI apply to?

If an agency, company or organization administers, oversees or operates a federally assisted program or activity for the public, then Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies.

### Response to Non-Compliance of Title VI

If a recipient of federal assistance is found to have discriminated and voluntary compliance cannot be achieved, the federal agency providing the assistance should either initiate fund termination proceedings or refer the matter to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal action. Aggrieved individuals may file administrative complaints with the federal agency that provides funds to a recipient, or the individuals may file suit for appropriate relief in federal court. Title VI itself prohibits intentional discrimination. However, most funding agencies have regulations implementing Title VI that prohibit recipient practices that have the effect of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

## WVSU 4-H Program Highlighted by USDA NIFA

A West Virginia State University 4-H program was recently highlighted in a newsletter produced by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Fresh from the Field, a weekly e-newsletter released nationally, highlights the achievements of USDA NIFA grantees.

In an article titled “Curating the Farmers of Tomorrow,” the March 7 edition of the newsletter outlined the activities conducted under the WVSU Extension 4H-PLANTERS (Preschoolers Learning Agriculture, Nutrition, Technology,

Engineering, Reading, and Science) program. The program delivers integrated health, literacy and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics) activities to preschool-aged youths.

The 4H PLANTERS program was supported by a competitive 1890 Capacity Building Grant and was designed to respond to the continuing need for health, literacy and STEAM education in underserved youth populations. Youths in the program experienced a multidisciplinary approach

to these topics, centered around the cultivation of raised-bed vegetable gardens. 4H PLANTERS was conducted in several schools in three West Virginia counties, reaching more than 600 youths during the grant performance period. Two of the participating schools saw significant increases in STEM activation and inquiry among participating preschool youths, which was a direct result of program participation.

## Grants and Contracts Highlights

The following dollar amounts were funded to Research and Development Corporation projects between November 2018 and March 2019. Additional funding proposals have been submitted and are awaiting notification.

Program/Project	Funding Agency	Principal Investigator	Organizational Unit	College/Division	Department	Grant Amount
GEAR UP U2	WV Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC)	Jason Luyster	WVSU	Business & Finance		\$175,000
Humans Being: A Podcast Discussing the Humanities at an HBCU in the Heart of Appalachia	WVHC	Jeffrey Pietruszynski	WVSU	College of Arts & Humanities	English	\$3,700
Speed Breeding for Introgression and Fine mapping for diverse alleles of pepper fruit size, shape, flavor and color	USDA NIFA	Padma Nimmakayala	WVSU	College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Biology	\$299,739
Healthy Rivers: Environmental Stressors and Resilience in Riverline Microbial Ecosystems	USDA NIFA	David Huber	WVSU	College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Biology	\$595,561
2019 WV Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol	WVHEPC	Micheal Fultz	WVSU	College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Chemistry	\$3,915
2019 Project Seed	ACS	Micheal Fultz	WVSU	College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Chemistry	\$7,500
The Lost Art of Russian Tango	WVHC	Scott Woodard	WVSU	College of Professional Studies	Academic Affairs	\$3,400
HSTA Fun with Science 2019	NIH	Hannah Payne	WVSU R&D Corp.	WVSU Extension Service	4-H Youth Development	\$48,000
WVSU Common Measures Challenge Cohort	4-H	Hannah Payne	WVSU R&D Corp.	WVSU Extension Service	4-H Youth Development	\$12,000
Renewal Resources Extension Act FY19	USDA NIFA	Bradford Cochran	WVSU R&D Corp.	WVSU Extension Service	Agriculture & Natural Resources	\$13,500
WVSU Healthy Grandfamilies Program	WVDOE	Bonnie Dunn	WVSU R&D Corp.	WVSU Extension Service	Family & Consumer Sciences	\$75,000
HG Sisters	SHF	Bonnie Dunn	WVSU R&D Corp.	WVSU Extension Service	Family & Consumer Sciences	\$4,320
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program	USDA NIFA	Bonnie Dunn	WVSU R&D Corp.	WVSU Extension Service	Family & Consumer Sciences	\$109,559
WVSU Evans Allen Research	USDA NIFA	Orlando McMeans	WVSU R&D Corp.	Research & Public Service		\$1,541,936
WVSU Section 1444 Extension	USDA NIFA	Orlando McMeans	WVSU R&D Corp.	Research & Public Service		\$1,404,447
1890 Facilities POW	USDA NIFA	Jose Toledo	WVSU R&D Corp.	Research & Public Service		\$825,819

## WVSU R&D Corp. News Updates and New Hires

### New Employees:

Please welcome the following employees, who began work with WVSU Research & Development Corporation throughout the fall and winter of 2018-2019.

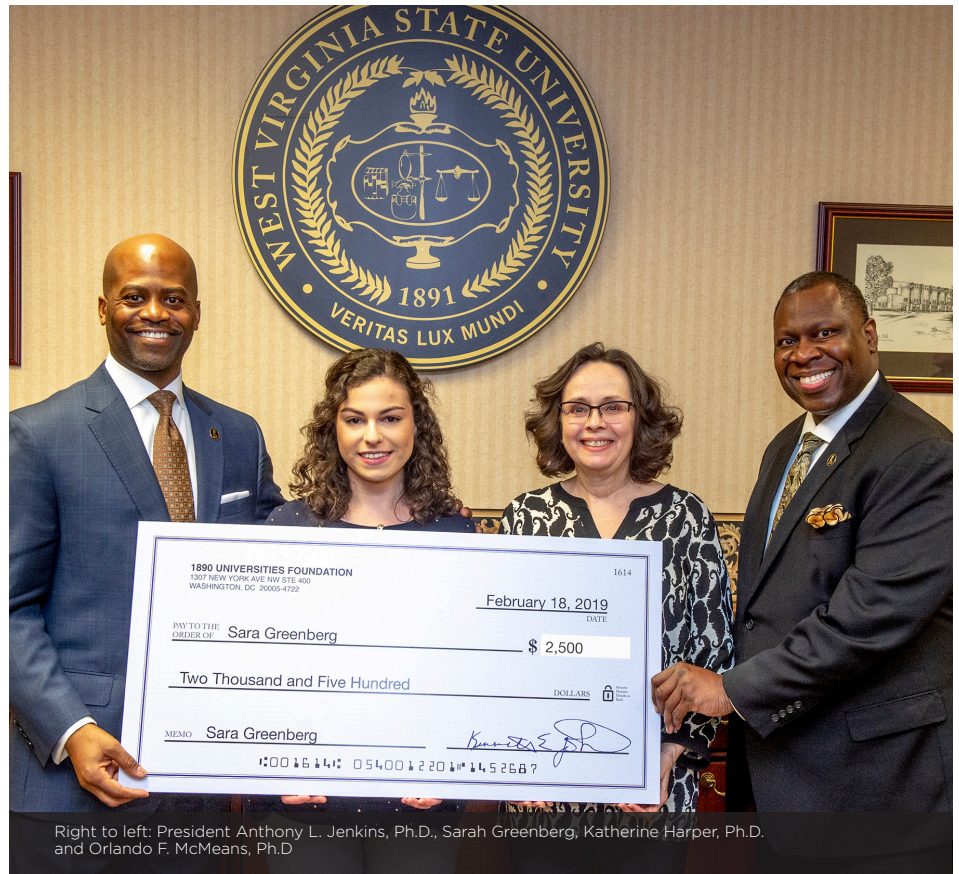
- **Edwina Barnett**  
Research Assistant and Administrative Specialist
- **Caroline Copenhaver**  
SCRATCH Program Coordinator
- **Emma Gardner**  
STEM Educator
- **Kateira Hogan**  
EFNEP Youth Associate
- **Dina Hornbaker**  
Extension Agent, Disadvantaged Farmers
- **Jade Irving**  
Retention Specialist
- **Rajeswari Purushothaman**  
Temporary Part-Time Research Associate

### Contributing Writers:

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## West Virginia State University Announces Inaugural Justin Smith Morrill Scholarship Award

Funding Supports Students Studying Food and Agricultural Sciences



Right to left: President Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D., Sarah Greenberg, Katherine Harper, Ph.D. and Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D.

WVSU biology major Sarah Greenberg has received the inaugural Justin Smith Morrill Scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarship is awarded by the 1890 Universities Foundation to students studying food and agricultural sciences.

Greenberg is not only WVSU's first recipient of the Morrill Scholarship, but is also only the ninth student in the nation to receive the award.

The competitive scholarship is named in honor of the late Senator Justin Morrill, whose Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act established the 1890 Land-Grant University System. It was made available in the fall of 2018 to students studying at 1890 Land-Grant Universities, of which WVSU is one of 19 in the nation.

"This award program was very competitive," said WVSU Vice President for Research and Public Service Dr. Orlando F. McMeans. "We are excited to present Sarah with this

scholarship, and we are confident that the program will be an annual occurrence at State."

The scholarship was established by the Association of Research Directors and the Association of Extension Administrators, overseers of the 1890 Universities Foundation. Each of the 1890 universities were granted one recipient for academic year 2018-2019. An appointed committee at WVSU oversaw the award distribution.

"Sarah is so accomplished," said Dr. Katherine Harper, chair of WVSU's Department of Biology. "She has set the scale with quality and is a true leader."

Greenberg, a native of Leonardtown, Md., is working on a freshwater initiative research project at WVSU, studying water quality in the Kanawha River, with the goal of pursuing a graduate degree in marine ecology.