ANR okays 70 LOIs to prepare full grant proposals

The five strategic initiative panels reviewed 195 letters of intent (LOIs) that were submitted to ANR’s 2013 competitive grants program to identify projects with strong, substantive connections to the initiative priorities.

Of those, 70 projects have been selected to submit full proposals, which will be due Friday, Oct. 4.

The LOIs invited to submit full proposals are posted for viewing at http://ucanr.edu/files/171613.pdf.

“The quality of the proposals is outstanding and participation is nearly double the 109 LOIs that we received in 2011,” said Bill Frost, associate vice president.

The full applications will undergo numerous levels of evaluation, including technical reviews that the strategic initiative leaders will assess and consider when they review all of the proposals on Dec. 10 and forward their comments and priorities to Program Council.

In January, Program Council will evaluate and discuss the proposals and make funding recommendations to ANR leadership, which will discuss and forward recommendations to VP Barbara Allen-Diaz.

ANR’s 2013 competitive grants awards are expected to be announced by VP Allen-Diaz in February 2014.

The full call for proposals for the 2013 ANR competitive grants is at http://ucanr.edu/cg.

Dear Colleagues:

Our ANR Strategic Vision was developed to address the numerous complex challenges facing California. Nutrition is one of the more complex problems, ranging from overnutrition to undernutrition, both linked to social-economic, science-health literacy, ethnic-cultural influences and individual and environmental barriers. The nutrition landscape can be improved through research, education and policy.

To address the critical nutrition issues that are impacting California, our nation and the world, ANR is launching the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Nutrition Policy Institute (NPI). This unit will work closely with the Youth, Families and Communities Statewide Program, which implements Cooperative Extension education and research programs systemwide, integrating with our Strategic Initiatives. NPI will provide nutrition policy leadership built from our numerous ongoing research and education activities. This group will work in synergy with research and outreach efforts being conducted in Davis and Berkeley campus departments and colleges and throughout the UC system.

ANR has begun recruitment for a Cooperative Extension specialist to serve as the inaugural director, providing leadership and operational management of NPI. We seek a visionary leader who can bring together a variety of diverse partners and stakeholders to successfully compete for extramural funding at state and national levels. The director will serve as a key ANR spokesperson on nutrition and health-related issues and a collaborator who can promote interdisciplinary efforts in nutrition research with other UC campus-based researchers, USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture and other federal and state nutrition programs, Cooperative Extension community-based nutrition education programs and the ANR Strategic Initiative leaders.

Ideal candidates will have a Ph.D. with experience in promoting interdisciplinary efforts in nutrition education, research and policy at different levels. The NPI director will be based in Oakland, travel weekly to the new ANR Headquarters in Davis and report to Associate Vice President Bill Frost. The full position description is posted on the ANR website at http://ucanr.edu/Jobs/Jobs_990/jobnum=484.

Barbara Allen-Diaz
Vice President

Barbara Allen-Diaz
Vice President

ANR launches Nutrition Policy Institute

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ANR Cultural Resource Team seeks volunteers

UCCE advisors and program representatives who do programmatic outreach to minority cultural groups may be unfamiliar with the language, unfamiliar with what is culturally acceptable behavior, and unfamiliar with the outreach method that might work best within that culture. To better serve diverse clientele, the Affirmative Action Office is seeking volunteers, both academics and staff, to form an ANR Cultural Resource Team.

They are looking for bilingual individuals or people with a close identification or experience with a minority culture. There will be no meetings to attend. If you volunteer for the Cultural Resource Team, ANR will add you to a resource list giving your name, contact information and the language other than English you are fluent in or the minority culture you have experienced. You may be contacted by UCCE advisors or program representatives for guidance.

You may never get called, but by volunteering you will be showing your commitment to diversity and equal opportunity.

If you’re interested in joining the ANR Cultural Resource Team, please get your supervisor’s permission to participate, then send your name, contact info and the language(s) and/or cultures you are familiar with to David White at dewhite@ucanr.edu.

Use ANR’s updated nondiscrimination statement

UCOP recently issued an update to the UC Nondiscrimination Statement (effective July 3, 2013). The ANR version of the statement is posted in English and Spanish at http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/Resources/Policy-related_downloads. Please use the updated version of the UC Nondiscrimination Statement on your publications.

For travel abroad, register with UC Trips

The U.S. State Department, Bureau of Consular Affairs issued a Worldwide Travel Alert on Aug. 2 warning U.S. citizens traveling abroad of an increased risk of terror attacks against U.S. interests. This alert is effective through Aug. 31, 2013.

ANR personnel traveling abroad for any reason should be extra cautious over the coming weeks.

If you are traveling on University business and have not already done so, register your trip with UC Trips from the link on our Business Travel webpage at http://ucanr.edu/travel. You can also find information about business travel insurance, a pre-trip planning tool, and other resources at this site. By registering your trip, you will ensure that you are covered by the University’s travel insurance program, you can sign up to receive alerts throughout your trip, and you can provide your itinerary and emergency contact information for use should an emergency arise.

If you have any questions about this alert or business travel insurance, contact ANR Risk & Safety Services’ Brian Oatman at (530) 752-6024 or baoatman@ucanr.edu or Linda Harris at (530) 752-7481 or olharris@ucanr.edu.

You can read the full text of the U.S. State Department travel alert at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_6042.html

Second Street News reports on new ANR building

The first issue of the Second Street News has been published at http://ucanr.edu/sites/TheNewANRBuilding/files/171624.pdf. This newsletter is your source of current information on the new ANR building located at 2801 Second Street in Davis. Construction is moving along quickly, and committees have been formed to tackle the thousands of details associated with a move of this size.

Contact the ANR New Building Culture and Communications Committee at http://ucanr.edu/sites/TheNewANRBuilding/Ask_a_Question with any questions or concerns that you may have.

UCCE San Diego hosts Pitahaya Festival

Visitors viewed several different varieties of pitahaya, which is also called dragon fruit, at UCCE San Diego’s 6th annual Pitahaya Festival on Aug. 23–25. Attendees also tasted the fruit. UCCE advisors shared new information about pitahaya plants at a seminar, field day and bonus field trip.
Besson joins Development Services

Andrew Besson has joined ANR as a development associate, effective Aug. 12. Besson will work closely on a variety of projects and activities with the Development Services team in support of ANR and California 4-H Foundation fund development efforts. His areas of responsibility will include prospect research, annual giving, stewardship and outreach training and events.

Besson earned a B.S. in human development and family sciences from Oregon State University. Most recently, he was an education specialist at Lifeworks Northwest in Portland, Oregon. There he worked with disadvantaged youth to decrease their educational barriers and maximize their learning potential. He developed community education initiative materials and delivered community presentations on the subject of early psychosis.

Besson is based in Oakland and can be reached at andrew.besson@ucop.edu and (510) 987-0063.

Millar elected ESA fellow

Jocelyn Millar, a professor in the Department of Entomology at UC Riverside, has been elected a fellow of the prestigious Entomological Society of America (ESA), the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and people in related disciplines.

This year, Millar and only nine others were elected to this honor. They will be recognized in November at the annual meeting of the ESA in Austin, Texas.

“I am delighted to see Dr. Millar’s tremendous hard work and dedication to entomology, chemical ecology, and pest management recognized in this way by the Entomological Society of America,” said Rick Redak, chair of the Department of Entomology at UC Riverside. “Dr. Millar is an internationally recognized leader in the area of chemical ecology. His research elucidates how insects communicate with their environment and has paved the way for new environmentally friendly approaches to pest management. The Department of Entomology is very pleased and proud that he has received this tremendous honor.”

In addition to chemical ecology, Millar’s group has worked on the control of invasive pests with natural enemies, and on vibrational signals that some insects use for communicating via transmission of the signals through plant tissues.

Millar also has been selected as the 2014 Silver Medal winner by the International Society of Chemical Ecology, in recognition of career achievement in chemical ecology.

Davis named APS fellow

The American Phytopathological Society has named R. Michael Davis, UC Cooperative Extension specialist and professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis, among their fellows. The honor recognizes his significant contributions to the science of plant pathology. The award was presented to Davis and 10 other new fellows on Aug. 11 in Austin, Texas, at this year’s annual meeting.

Davis, who joined UC Davis in 1986, has focused his research on diseases of citrus, vegetables and field crops and practical applications of disease management measures. He has also conducted research on edible mushroom production and disease management of mushrooms.

Davis teaches a graduate course on diagnostics and management of diseases of vegetables and field crops and a course on laboratory methodologies, as well as undergraduate courses on world food production, field identification of wild mushrooms, edible mushroom cultivation, and phylogenetics of fungi. Davis is the primary author of the “Field Guide to Mushrooms of Western North America.”

For APS, he was the primary editor and a contributor of two compendia, “Compendium of Umbelliferous Crop Diseases” and “Compendium of Lettuce Diseases,” and was the primary editor and a contributor to “Tomato Health Management.” From 2010 to 2012, Davis served as editor-in-chief of Plant Disease and prior to that served terms as notes assigning editor, associate editor, and senior editor of that journal, among other duties.

Hartin receives associate editor award

The ANR Communications Advisory Board has awarded Janet Hartin, UCCE advisor in San Bernardino County, the first ANR Associate Editor Distinguished Service Award.

Hartin, who has served as ANR Associate Editor for Environmental Horticulture for four years, was nominated by Mary Louise Flint, UCCE specialist in the Department of Entomology at UC Davis and associate editor chair, and Ann Senuta, ANR publications manager, for her accomplishments in workload, reviewer challenges, technology and quality.

Hartin managed the peer-review process of the greatest number of manuscripts by an ANR associate editor over the last three years, including 11 chapters for “Container Nursery Production and Business Management Manual,” 15 chapters for “California Master Gardener Handbook, 2nd Edition,” 13 chapters for “Water and Nutrient Management for Floriculture Crops” and three online publications. This effort included managing sequential reviews of two large, multi-chapter books in a similar subject area, which often required multiple requests before she was able to identify sufficient peer reviewers for each manuscript.

In the award letter, CAB chair Joe Connell, UCCE advisor in Butte County, and Flint noted, “Janet’s service to the ANR peer-review process, Division authors and to ANR publications is exemplary.”
UC to be tobacco-free by 2014

With UC going tobacco-free by 2014, UC offers tobacco cessation resources for employees at http://uclivingwell.ucop.edu/tobacco.

As of Jan. 1, the use of cigarettes and all tobacco products will no longer be permitted on UC campuses and properties owned or occupied by ANR.

This policy is intended to create healthier environments for the thousands who learn, work, live and spend time in California and applies to everyone on ANR property, including volunteers and visitors.

The policy covers the use of all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco, as well as electronic cigarettes.

All tobacco users who want to quit are encouraged to call the free California Smokers Helpline at 1-800-NO-BUTTS.

For details about the tobacco policy, visit http://ucanr.edu/sites/tobaccofree.

Retirement

Richard Enfield

“It was my dream career,” said Richard Enfield, UCCE director and advisor in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, who retired July 1 after a 33-year UCCE career.

In 1980, after earning his B.S. degree in agricultural sciences at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, he was hired as a 4-H youth development advisor.

“Over the years, Richard made the 4-H program more visible in San Luis Obispo County by reaching out and offering the program to not just the traditional club audiences but to other youth,” said JoAnn Overbey, who has volunteered with 4-H for 42 years.

“I remember years ago when 4-H was set up in housing projects in the North County,” Overbey said. “He started the 4-H SLO Scientists Program that youth could join, and this program was years ahead of the UC SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) Program that started a few years ago.”

In 1987, Enfield earned an M.A. in educational psychology and research methods from UC Riverside. In 1991 he was appointed UCCE director for San Luis Obispo County, serving for two years. In 2005, he was reappointed UCCE director for San Luis Obispo County and added oversight in Santa Barbara County in 2008, leading UCCE in both counties until his retirement. In 2010, Enfield began serving as a 4-H advisor for Santa Barbara County in addition to San Luis Obispo County. He also served as interim UCCE director for Ventura County from April 1, 2011, until Aug. 31, 2012.

Locally he created a middle-management structure empowering adult volunteers and teen leaders to serve in critical 4-H roles. Other counties have recently begun adopting his model. He also presented the middle management approach at state and national conferences.

Enfield has won numerous accolades over his career. In 2010, he received the Meritorious Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Colleagues honored him with the ANR Distinguished Service Award for Leadership in 2011.

The New Jersey native and his wife Elaine Cormier, a retired optometrist, plan to stay in San Luis Obispo. He plans to attend more ballet performances and baseball games and to continue collecting publications about the West.

ANR has granted Enfield emeritus status so he will continue his research on the development of individual and community social capital through the 4-H program.

Read the full story at http://ucanr.edu/?blogpost=11266&blogasset=60503.