In 2013, we implemented a number of recommendations made by our Technical Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Foremost among these was a series of webinars related to regional food systems. Organized and hosted by Center Scholar Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights, the webinars showcased the work of multiple colleagues from around the region.

Center staff gave numerous invited presentations at major regional meetings, sharing key research and outreach findings. We also made significant progress on our externally funded grants, including the signature Food Systems project, Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE). By all accounts, this project is advancing very well and it is providing remarkable learning opportunities for all concerned – across disciplines, institutions, states and place-based organizations.

Our NIFA-funded think tank, the National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (NARDeP) Center, is an exemplary and unprecedented national research collaboration, and it has already generated a sizeable volume of policy research. With generous support from Farm Foundation, we produced two events at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, this year, raising the Centers’ profiles.

I invite you to learn more about our activities by downloading the entire 2013 annual report. Details can be found on the back page.

We are profoundly thankful to all the talented and dedicated partners who work with us on these projects, and who advise us, including the NERCRD’s Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors. In addition, our work is guided by an EFSNE Board of Directors and two NARDeP Advisory Boards. Without these and other key collaborators, a small Center such as ours could not function effectively, or make such an impact.

Stephan J. Goetz, Ph.D.  
Director, NERCRD  
December 2013
Two Successful Webinars Hosted by Center Scholar Center Scholar Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights of West Virginia University hosted two successful webinars on local and regional foods this year. More than 130 people attended the live webinars, and web visitors continued to access the archived recordings that are available online. The webinars served to improve research and extension integration across the region and to strengthen networks among land-grant and related institutions in the Northeast.

Each webinar was moderated by Kate Clancy of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and featured speakers representing 11 institutions in the Northeast, including six of our partner land-grant institutions:
- Cornell University
- Penn State University
- Rutgers University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- University of Vermont

More info at: http://goo.gl/CM38Ge

Some participants’ comments
“Great webinar, Dee and Kate for all you did to get us all connected and our slides visible! Very interesting presentations everyone, Stephan, thank you for supporting this in your program.”

Foundations of Practice Back Up Popular Demand The Foundations of Practice national course was offered again, building on past Center investments; the course was led by Mary Peabody (University of Vermont) and Heidi Mousseixes Kunzman (Cornell University). Registrants included individuals from government, NGOs, and Extension, as well as groups, like a University of Maine community development class. A number of the Extension educators who registered were new to the Extension system. The seven-week series featured a weekly 90-minute webinar focusing on topics that include demographics, economic development, strategic planning and power structures.

“Thanks for the chance to share and learn! You are a Dream Team!”

2013 live webinar participants
130

66 course participants

66

Center-Related Publications: Selected Titles
- “Linkages Between Community-Focused Agriculture, Farm Sales, and Regional Growth,” Economic Development Quarterly, in press.
- “Assembling Multi-Disciplinary Teams for NIFA Grant Applications,” presented at a Post-Conference Professional Development Workshop organized by Dr. Liang at the AAEA 2013 Annual Meeting, August 2013
- “Economic and Socio-Demographic Trends in the Northeast United States,” presented at Northeast 4-H Leadership Group, March 2013

New Health and Human Services Grant Led By NCRCRD The four Regional Rural Development Centers, led by the North Central Regional Rural Development Center, have been awarded $2.7 million to develop and deliver national programs aimed at improving community health outcomes.

Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE) This year, the EFSNE team had its second all-team meeting, giving attendees an opportunity to have the trans-disciplinary conversations and collaborations that are crucial to the success of the systems-level project like this. Visit the EFSNE project website at: http://goo.gl/91Gr9

6 grants totalling
$1.7 million in additional funding

For more information on our funded projects, visit: http://goo.gl/9ICAO4

Website and Newsletter Updates In support of our ongoing interest in improving efficiency and effectiveness in Center operations, we’ve recently migrated our web content to a content management system. The more accessible foundation will improve our web visitors’ experiences, and it has allowed us to automate the process of compiling our quarterly newsletter. Our newsletter allows us to share the work of our partners with our subscribers. In 2013, we reported on over 40 activities of our partners.

Join our 1,000+ newsletter subscribers! Send a note to nercrd@psu.edu to be added to our email list, or visit us online at: nercrd.psu.edu

Thank you very much for your very informative Choices article on the critical role of federal statistical data at the regional and local levels.” – Steve Pierson, Ph.D., Director of Science Policy, American Statistical Association

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Visit the EFSNE project website at: www.nardep.info

6k+ website visitors since April’s launch

Center Staff
- Dr. Stephan J. Goetz, Director and Professor
- Mrs. Kathleen Burke, Business Manager
- Mrs. Amber Evock, Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors
- Dr. Dennis Calvin, Chair Elect, Penn State
- Dr. Brent Elrod, USDA-NIFA
- Mr. Robert J. Frazier, MidAtlantic Farm Credit
- Dr. Stephen Herbert, University of Massachusetts
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- West Virginia University
- Dr. George Morse, University of Minnesota, Retired
- Ms. Ginger Myers, University of Maryland College Park
- Dr. Jurgen Schwartz, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Dr. Stephon Tubene, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Technical Advisory Committee
- Dr. Cheryl Brown, Chair Elect
- West Virginia University
- Dr. Charlie French, University of New Hampshire
- Dr. Todd Gabe, University of Maine
- Dr. Paul Gottlieb, Rutgers University
- Dr. Kathleen Liang, Chair, University of Vermont
- Dr. George Morse, University of Minnesota, Retired
- Miss Ginger Myers, University of Maryland College Park
- Dr. Jurgen Schwartz, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Dr. Stephon Tubene, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Sharing discoveries

Selected Invited Presentations
- “Economic and Socio-Demographic Trends in the Northeast United States,” presented at Northeast 4-H Leadership Group, March 2013
- “Assembling Multi-Disciplinary Teams for NIFA Grant Applications,” presented at a Post-Conference Professional Development Workshop organized by Dr. Liang at the AAEA 2013 Annual Meeting, August 2013
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Documenting the Effects of the Great Recession As part of our presentation to the 4-H Leadership Group, we discovered astonishing differences in how wage-and-salary jobs and self-employment have changed over the course of the last decade in Northeastern U.S. counties. These maps underscore the on-going jobless recovery since 2000, and the great challenges facing the nation’s workforce. They are available at: http://goo.gl/ACFVLQ.

Building capacity

Leading innovative research

National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center Led by the Northeast Center, the RRDG directors collaborated in competing for a USDA/NIFA grant to establish NARDep, a flexible national network of scientists and analysts ready to quickly meet the research needs of local, state and federal policy makers. The four RRDGs have demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a team to develop and deliver national programs by drawing on land-grant college and university resources. In just over a year, the NARDep Center has tapped the expertise of land-grant researchers to develop and deliver 21 policy-relevant analyses for national leaders in the public and private sectors, many of which are available as publications on the newly launched NARDep website.

www.nardep.info

6k+ website visitors since April’s launch

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