



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

A close-up photograph of a sunflower, with the petals in shades of yellow, orange, and red, set against a bright, hazy background. The sunflower is the central visual element of the poster.

NIFA

DAY OF APPRECIATION

2016

OCTOBER 6, 2016 | 10:00 AM | 1410 WATERFRONT CENTRE | WASHINGTON, DC

NIFA DAY OF APPRECIATION 2016

OPENING COMMENTS

SONNY RAMASWAMY

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

MERYL BROUSSARD

ROBERT HOLLAND

AWARDS

LENGTH OF SERVICE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HONOR AWARDS

NIFA TEAM AWARDS

A.J. DYE AWARD FOR DIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

NIFA PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

NIFA HALL OF FAME

CLOSING COMMENTS

SONNY RAMASWAMY

LENGTH OF SERVICE

5 YEARS

Garri Azrelyant, Carol Benesh,
Jane Clary Loveless, Kelly Flynn,
Robert Holland, Lakshmi Matukumalli,
Suzette McCreary, Alyse Perez-Rivera,
Adam Preuter, Ahlshia Shipley,
Douglas Swanson, Bonita Williams

10 YEARS

Daniel Cassidy, James Dobrowolski,
Scott Elliott, Susan Garman,
Trenice Hall, Kenyata Hankerson,
Charlotte Kirk Baer, Paularie Knox,
Latasha Lyte, Robert Martin,
Jimese Price

15 YEARS

Saleia Afele Faamuli, Laura Artis,
Teresa Bailey, Nancy Cavallaro,
Hongda Chen, Robert Hedberg,
Shynika Loften, Mark Mirando,
Festus Onyegbula, Gary Sherman,
Alicia Simon, Robert Smith,
Sivapathasun Sureshwaran,
Jeanette Thurston

20 YEARS

Georgette Ashton, Catalino Blanche,
Vivian Brooks-Marshall,
Pandora Dubose, Otto Gonzalez,
Valerie Martin, Cynthia Montgomery,
Eric Norland, Steven Thomson

25 YEARS

Aurea Anderson, Shawn Bennett,
Susan Bowman, Paula Geiger,
Jack Goldberg, Melanie Krizmanich,
Ann Lichens Park, Liang Shiou Lin,
Mary Purcell, Jan Singleton,
Amy Wilson, Mamie Young

30 YEARS

Joseph Barbano, Jane Graninger,
Deborah Ogden, Janet Schmidt,
Frederica Steward

35 YEARS

Ellen Danus, James Kahler,
Sharon Lumpkin, Michael McGirr

40 YEARS

John McClinton

45 YEARS

Ester Carter

TEAM AWARDS

SCIENCE

USA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FESTIVAL TEAM

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HONOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

NAHLN & NPDN: SISTER AGROSECURITY NETWORKS

Kitty Cardwell, Martin Draper, Mark Robinson, Gary Sherman,
Danielle Tack, Adele Turzillo

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION CAPACITY BUILDING TEAM

Saleia Afele-Faamuli, Susan Bowman, Ellen Danus, Bertha Green, Timothy Grosser,
Katrena Hanks, Kimberly Johnson, Eula Jordan, Eric Kornegay, Irma Lawrence,
Jill Lee, Edwin Lewis, Josue Lopez, Antonio McLaren, Muquarrab Qureshi, David Sosa,
Suresh Sureshwaran, David Wagner, Lindell Williams, Adrienne Woodin

CLIMATE CHANGE, GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY, AND THE US FOOD SYSTEM TEAM

Rachel Melnick-Lippart

PAKISTAN TEAM

Otto Gonzalez

NIFA PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

MISSION INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION

For enabling Southern pine landowners to manage forests
for increased carbon sequestration and adopt forest management approaches
that increase forest resilience and sustainability.

PINEMAP • UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

MULTISTATE EFFORTS

For developing an exceptional transdisciplinary research, extension,
and education project in nine states to identify strategies to make
corn production climate resilient.

*CLIMATE CHANGE, MITIGATION, AND ADAPTATION
IN CORN-BASED CROPPING SYSTEMS* • IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

For assisting aspiring and small food entrepreneurs by providing a central source
of information and resources related to operating a food business.

FOOD ENTREPRENEUR WORKING GROUP • AUBURN UNIVERSITY

NIFA HALL OF FAME

ROGER N. BEACHY, Ph.D.

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER, INDIGO AGRICULTURE

Dr. Roger N. Beachy serves as Chief Scientific Officer at Indigo Agriculture. He is also founding Director of the World Food Center at the University of California, Davis and President Emeritus of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the founding Executive Director and former CEO of the Global Institute for Food Security in 2013. In 2009 Dr. Beachy was appointed as the first Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, where he served until 2011. He also served as President of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. Previously, Dr. Beachy headed the Division of Plant Biology at The Scripps Research Institute and was Professor and Scripps Family Chair in Cell Biology and Co-Director of the International Laboratory for Tropical Agricultural Biotechnology. He began his career as a biology faculty member and Director of the Center for Plant Science and Biotechnology at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Beachy received his B.A. in biology from Goshen College and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from Michigan State University. Dr. Beachy was a 2001 recipient of the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture.

CAROLYN B. BROOKS, Ph.D.

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 1890 ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH DIRECTORS

Dr. Carolyn B. Brooks previously served as the Executive Director of the Association of 1890 Research Directors and as the Dean of the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences and the 1890 Research Director at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Dr. Brooks has also served as the Chair of the Department of Agriculture and Co-Director of the Center of Plant and Microbial Biotechnology at UMES. Prior to joining UMES in 1981, Dr. Brooks was a principal investigator in nutrition programs at Kentucky State University. She received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from Tuskegee University and her Ph.D. in microbiology from The Ohio State University. Dr. Brooks was a recipient of the Faculty Award for Excellence in Science and Technology from the White House, the Outstanding Educator Award from the Maryland Association for Higher Education, the Faculty Award for Excellence and Achievement from the UMES National Alumni Association and a number of other university awards for research excellence. Dr. Brooks' biography is included in "Distinguished African American Scientists of the 20th Century."

NIFA HALL OF FAME

WALTER HILL, Ph.D.

VICE PROVOST, LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS; DEAN, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND NUTRITION SCIENCES; DIRECTOR OF 1890 RESEARCH; AND ADMINISTRATOR OF 1890 EXTENSION; TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Walter Hill serves as the Vice Provost of Land-Grant University Affairs at Tuskegee University. Dr. Hill also currently serves as the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences, the Director of the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Administrator of 1890 Extension. Dr. Hill joined Tuskegee University in 1978 as an Assistant Professor and was appointed as Dean of the School of Agriculture and Home Economics in 1987. He has served in numerous leadership and interim positions including Interim Dean of the School of Architecture and Construction Science and Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Prior to joining Tuskegee University, Dr. Hill was a high school teacher for the Chicago Public Schools where he taught chemistry and general and physical science. Dr. Hill received his Ph.D. in agronomy and environmental chemistry from the University of Illinois, his master's degrees from both the University of Arizona and the University of Chicago, and his B.S. from Lake Forest College in Illinois.

DANIEL ROSSI, Ph.D.

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTORS

Dr. Daniel Rossi served as the Executive Director of the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) since 2007 where he was responsible for advancing the policies and programs of the NERA and its constituent members. In 2002 he was appointed Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Senior Associate Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) at Rutgers University. Prior to that, Dr. Rossi served as Associate Director of the NJAES and Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Food Policy Institute. Dr. Rossi has also served in numerous national leadership positions within the State Agricultural Experiment Station System. Dr. Rossi received his B.S. and M.S. degrees

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NIFA HALL OF FAME

from Rutgers University in the field of agricultural economics in 1971 and 1973, respectively. He completed a doctoral program in agricultural economics at the Pennsylvania State University and returned to Rutgers as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing in 1978.

RAJIV SHAH

FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, LATITUDE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LP

Dr. Rajiv Shah is the Founder and Managing Partner of Latitude Capital Management. He also serves as a fellow on the faculty of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Dr. Shah most recently served as the 16th Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development until 2015. In 2009 Dr. Shah was appointed as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he created the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, he spent eight years at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he led efforts in global health, agriculture, and financial services, including the creation of the International Finance Facility for Immunization. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and the Wharton School of Business. Dr. Shah was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He has served as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, been named to Fortune's 40 Under 40, and has received multiple honorary degrees.