



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE JOBS, BUSINESS GROWTH

WASHINGTON, September 2, 2008 – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of 15 historically African-American land-grant institutions in 14 states to receive a total of \$1.5 million in economic development and business promotion grants.

“These funds are part of USDA Rural Development’s ongoing efforts to ensure that all rural Americans are able to share in the nation’s economic growth,” Dorr said. “USDA has been working with the 1890 institutions and Tuskegee University for more than a decade to help them reach rural residents in communities with the greatest economic need.”

The grants will help create businesses, promote cooperatives and provide employment opportunities. The recipients are among the 18 institutions supported under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, a law providing for the establishment of land-grant institutions focusing on agriculture, home economics and the mechanic arts.

For example, Langston University in Langston, Okla., was selected to receive a \$100,000 grant to strengthen and develop rural enterprises in seven underserved rural communities in five counties throughout Oklahoma. The university will conduct seminars and workshops focusing on business counseling, technology training, grant writing and loan package preparation in targeted rural communities. Langston will place a special emphasis on creating value-added and renewable energy ventures. This effort is expected to create or save 25 local jobs.

Alabama A&M University in Normal, Ala., was selected to receive a \$75,000 grant that will provide a special emphasis on hands-on training for youths in computer usage, business recordkeeping, financial management and business planning, as well as traditional outreach efforts such as workshops, seminars and individual counseling.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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Funding of each recipient is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement. The following is a complete list of the 1890 Institutions receiving USDA Rural Development awards:

2008 Land Grant Institution Recipients

Recipient	State	Grant Amount
Tuskegee University	AL	\$115,000
Alabama A&M University	AL	\$75,000
University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff	AR	\$100,000
Delaware State University	DE	\$115,000
Fort Valley State University	GA	\$115,000
Florida A&M University	FL	\$105,000
Kentucky State University	KY	\$75,000
Southern University and A&M College	LA	\$100,000
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	MD	\$100,000
Alcorn State University	MS	\$100,000
North Carolina A&T State University	NC	\$100,000
Langston University	OK	\$100,000
South Carolina State University	SC	\$100,000
Prairie View A&M University	TX	\$100,000
West Virginia State University	WV	\$100,000

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.