

Penn State-Led Consortium Receives Kellogg Planning Grant

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — A consortium led by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences has been selected to receive one of 12 planning grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to participate in the foundation's Food Systems Professions Education Initiative.

The \$133,000 grant will enable the consortium to design educational program strategies needed to prepare food systems professionals for the 21st century. The consortium will include Penn State's 18 commonwealth campuses, the Rodale Institute, and Cheyney University.

"Penn State's proposal was one of 12 approved by the Kellogg Board after a review of 39 proposals and site visits to 16 institutions," said Dr. William Lacy, assistant dean for research in the college and program director.

An 18-month "visioning" process will be the first step in developing innovations in food systems education. The foundation will conduct six national symposia for the 12 groups to enable them to share their strategies. At the end of this period, participating institutions will be considered for additional grants to help with implementation.

"The visioning phase is designed to engage the higher-education community as well as a wide range of stakeholders in the food system," said Lacy. "Penn State's initiative is to create a model educational system based on the changing values and needs of Pennsylvania's diverse population."

Participants in the visioning process will include agricultural producers, suppliers, processors, and distributors; environmental agencies and advocates; nutrition and food distribution groups; policy makers; community officials and organizations; members of the media; and university leaders.

"By involving university leaders, we hope to encourage a broader dialogue regarding the organization and content of education university-wide," said Lacy.

Leading the Penn State consortium are Lacy; Dr. James Mortensen, associate dean for resident education in the college; Dr. Frederick Gaige, chief executive officer at Penn State Berks Campus; Maria van Hekken, co-director of the Penn State/Rodale Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natur-

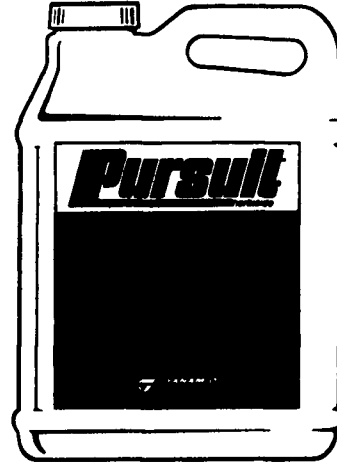
al Resources in Urbanizing Environments; Dr. Clinton Pettus, vice president for academic affairs at Cheyney University; and Dr. G. Gregory Lozier, executive director of Penn State's Office of Planning and Analysis.

Most of the foundation's grants address the areas of youth; leadership; philanthropy and volunteerism; community-based, problem-focused health services; higher education; food systems; rural de-

velopment; groundwater resources; and economic development. Programming priorities concentrate grants in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and southern Africa.

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