



# The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

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**Dr. Hamideh Etamadnia**  
Postdoctoral Scholar  
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**Dr. Houtian (Frank) Ge**  
Postdoctoral Scholar  
(as of August 2014)

**Dr. Yicheol (Char) Han**  
Postdoctoral Scholar

**Ms. Erica Hildabridle**  
Emerging Center Scholar and MS  
candidate in Agricultural and Extension  
Education

**Mr. Minghao Li**  
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(Ph.D. Candidate)

**Mr. Jiaochen Liang**  
Ph.D. Candidate

**Dr. Julia Marasteanu**  
Ph.D. candidate (graduated May 2014)

**Ms. Heidi Mousseilleseux  
Kunzman**  
Center Scholar (Cornell University)

**Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights**  
Center Scholar (West Virginia State  
University)

# Table of Contents

<b>Major Center Activities.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Progress on External Grants.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Staff Announcements.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Center Publications and Presentations.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Other Services Provided by the Director.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Perspectives on NERCRD Funding.....</b>	<b>22</b>



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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture



Northeastern  
Regional  
Association of  
State Agricultural  
Experiment  
Station Directors

# Overview 2014

2014 was another banner year for the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. With the help and guidance of our Board of Directors, the Technical Advisory Committee, key USDA/NIFA and other collaborators, we were able to continue to advance the rural development agenda in our region. In particular, we deepened our efforts in the area of local food systems development and food security, both of which are of growing interest to land-grant university stakeholders and citizens more generally, through our Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast through Regional Food Systems (EFSNE) signature grant as well as related grants with partners. This work was published in the *Transportation Research Record* and *Economic Development Quarterly* and in other academic journals, and it was picked up in, among other venues, the widely read Yahoo Food blog as well as the *Christian Science Monitor*. The published research on distribution network models attracted the interest of the National Biofuels Research Laboratory in Idaho, as a possible way of setting up biofuels hubs across the nation.

The ongoing success of our EFSNE project led to the awarding of a new \$900,000 grant from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to deliver technical assistance over the coming grant cycle to applicants to the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP). This exciting new initiative meets an important public need and it allows us to engage even more directly and fund Extension educators along with other collaborators in the local and regional foods arena within each of our states. Comparable training will be delivered across the nation in partnership with the three other Regional Rural Development Centers. The success of the CAPE project, led by the Northcentral Center, has resulted in a second round of increased funding in the community health area.

The subject of inequality has risen to the forefront of policymakers' thinking over the course of the last year, including that of Federal Reserve Bank Chairwoman Janet Yellen<sup>1</sup>. Through our policy think-tank, the National



Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (NARDeP) Research Center, we were able to organize two special paper sessions at the National Regional Science Association annual conference,

held during November in Washington, DC. Notably, this initiative builds on exciting new work that examines the factors influencing economic mobility across different US counties. One of the factors that has been shown to play a role in enhancing economic mobility is stocks of social capital, the county-level measurement of which was first made possible by the Center. This work on inequality, and how advancement up the economic ladder may be increased in rural areas has attracted the attention of senior leadership within USDA.

Looking back over the past year, we are deeply grateful to the collaborators who make our work possible. We look forward to another banner year in 2015.

*Stephan J. Goetz, Ph.D.*  
Director of NERCRD

<sup>1</sup> See *Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 17, 2014 (online), "Fed's Yellen Says Extreme Inequality Could Be Un-American."

# Major Center Activities

The day-to-day activities of Northeast Center staff fall into three broad categories: building capacity, sharing resources, and leading innovative research. This year, we organized a regional conference, held two food systems webinars, produced new research, conducted analyses of regional networks, and continued to keep our stakeholders apprised of news and opportunities in the region, while managing four large grants.

## ***“What Works” and National Value Added Joint Conference***

A major initiative this year was the organizing of the Center’s third “What Works” conference, which was co-hosted with the National Value-Added Agriculture Conference and took place on May 13-15, 2014. Drs. C Liang and D. Singh-Knights played important roles in making this event successful. From ranchers to researchers to entrepreneurs, more than 100 people gathered in Baltimore to exchange ideas around the conference theme of

“Enhancing Food Security and Rural Viability through Innovative Food System Practices and Opportunities.” The event featured 33 workshops and breakout sessions, an ongoing poster exhibit, and even a field trip to Maryland’s largest organic farm.

Participants, some of whom came from as far as the Philippines and Nigeria, reported that it was an excellent networking opportunity.

***Our “What Works” Conference, held jointly with the National Value Added Agriculture Conference, drew interest from around the world.***

### “What Works” conference registrations, by state



**87** registrations from within the region

**46** registrations from outside the region

**26** registrations from outside the country

In fact, 100% of the post-conference evaluation respondents said they met at least one new person with whom they plan to maintain communication or collaboration.

In addition to numerous networking opportunities, the two-day program included workshops on wide-ranging topics including recipe-to-market initiatives, food hubs, urban agriculture, agritourism, and entrepreneurship in food systems. USDA staff members delivered lunch-time presentations, providing statistics from the 2012 Census of Agriculture, updates from the USDA Farmers Market and Farm-to-School Programs, and more. A selection of the presentations are archived on the Center's website.

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## ***Food Systems Webinars***

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For the second year running, Center Scholar Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights of West Virginia State University hosted two successful webinars on local and regional foods. This

series serves to improve research and extension integration across the region and to strengthen networks among land-grant and related institutions in the Northeast.

More than 160 people attended the live webinars. This represents a 23 percent increase over last year's webinar attendance, a possible result of the Center's initiative to more widely promote its programs in the region. In addition, web visitors continue to access the archived recordings that are available online.

The first webinar, titled "Climate Change and Its Implications for Local and Regional Food Systems," was held on April 25, 2014. It was attended by more than 80 people, and more than 30 people have accessed the archived presentation online.

The second webinar, titled "Urban Agriculture - Economics, Successes and Challenges," was presented on June 27, 2014. It was attended by more than 80 people, and more than 50 people have accessed the archived presentation online.

Each webinar was moderated by Singh-Knights and featured speakers representing four institutions in the Northeast, including two partner institutions.

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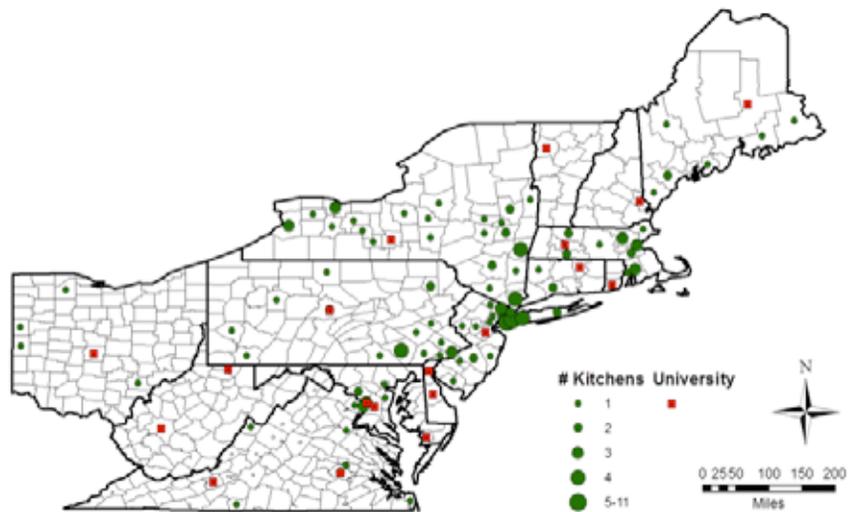
## ***Center Evaluation Efforts***

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This past year, the Center implemented the first-ever Center Evaluation Fellow and the TAC recruited Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman, Senior Extension Associate from Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI), to fill this role. Unlike the Center Scholars, the Evaluation Fellow works for a shorter, more intense period of three to six months. Heidi's first task was to connect with the Northeast Region's Community and Regional Economic Development evaluation team to lay forth a plan of work and to compile information about the various efforts in the region, including an evaluation survey, identification of common indicators across the region, and efforts by other regions to further impact evaluation efforts.

***Attendance of our live webinars was up 23% this year, with more than 160 people participating from within the region and beyond.***

Additionally, Heidi has begun to access CRED evaluation documents from various institutions across the region that are using a shared reporting system, namely ME, NH, DE, VT, and MA. She also has begun identifying and reaching out to contacts at other institutions to get their evaluation data/reports. Her work is now focused on synthesizing the reporting documents and identifying common program areas, as well as common approaches to evaluating impacts. Finally, she will identify common impacts across the region with the goal of aggregating them into a regional impact report. This information will be compiled and shared with



the CRED Evaluation Working Group.

Another area in which we have employed an emerging scholar is that of technology transfer in the food production area, from land grants to individual entrepreneurs. A draft report is underway that lists and maps

resources available within the Northeast region (see above).

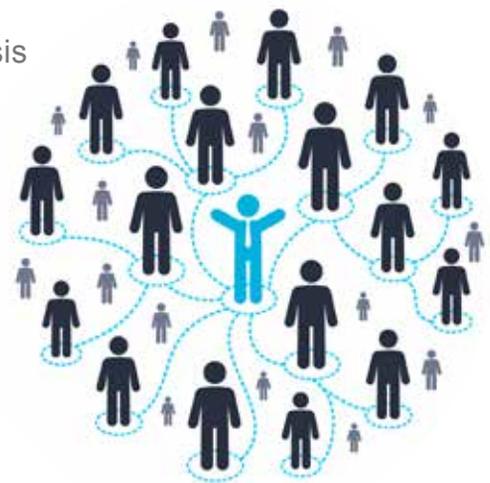
In addition, and at the suggestion of one of our TAC members, we are compiling a list of community-development related training resources in the region.

## *Network Science*

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve collaborations among stakeholders, the Northeast Center conducted a network analysis of the participants at the Joint Northeastern/Canadian Climate Change workshop held in Rochester late last year. The resulting maps and interpretations were shared with the conference organizers.

In addition, we conducted network analyses of the minority farmer groups that are being studied under our Capacity Building Grant with Tennessee State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Delaware State University. As part of this grant we are developing an online curriculum for conducting social network analyses with minority farm groups.

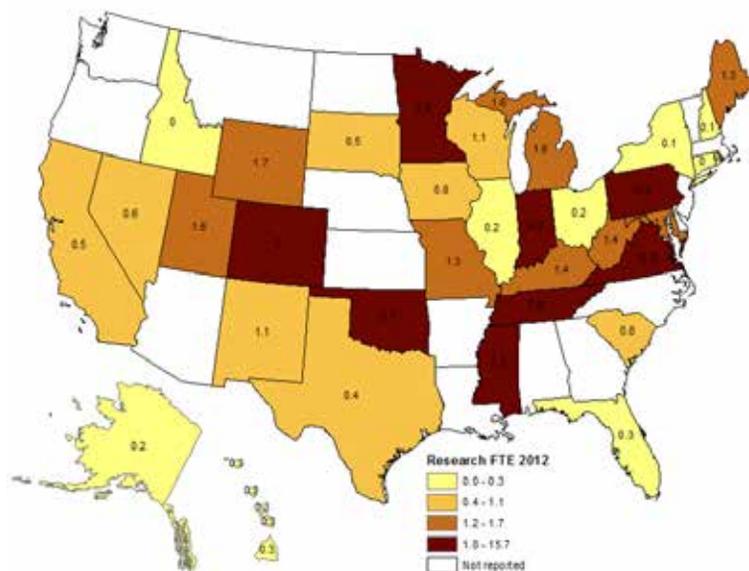
With funding from the Kauffman Foundation we constructed network graphs of the Twitter accounts followed by entrepreneurs in the Kansas City area. Finally, we will survey EFSNE participants in early 2015 to construct a network analysis of interdisciplinary collaborations on that project. This will mark the fourth such analysis, allowing us to study the evolution of that network over time.



## ***National Database of Knowledge Area 608 FTEs: Community Resource Planning and Development***

As part of our work on impact evaluation, we are looking at the staff resources available at the state level to carry out work in the area of Community Resource Planning and Development, also known as Knowledge Area 608. The map at right shows the number of full-time-equivalent staff working in Knowledge Area 608 as of 2012, according to data reported to NIFA.

Research, 2012 FTE, Knowledge Area 608



## ***Building Capacity***

Our major activities are aimed at helping people strengthen the knowledge and competencies needed to sustain their work in communities. Our constituents continually let us know how valuable our work is to their efforts:

***“I will use the information [presented in the webinar] about what urban agriculture is and the challenges to implementing [it] to better understand that side of the research project I am working on. I am on the nutrition education side and wanted to use this opportunity to introduce myself to urban agriculture.”***

— a webinar participant

***“I have been referencing your presentation in all of my youth work, in NY and now in PA.”***

— a 4-H Educator

***I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your recent research. I’m currently enrolled in a DBA program, and my doctoral study topic is self-employment challenges in Maine. I appreciate the work you have done in this field, and look forward to following any future work in this area.”***

— a graduate student



# Progress on External Grants

The Northeast Center currently leads three major collaborative projects.

## *Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast through Regional Food Systems*

The Northeast Center's signature food system project is now well into the second half of its project timeline. Team members are seeing outcomes and impacts spill over into the communities in which they are working, and are beginning to make results available to other researchers. Some milestones of the year include:

- A comparison of the region's production to its consumption was conducted, resulting in a "self reliance" measurement for 100 foods. These calculations show that the Northeast is far more self-reliant for animal-based foods, like dairy and eggs, than for plant-based foods.
- Intercept surveys were conducted with 1,800 shoppers in the project's eight study locations, providing the researchers insights into shoppers' purchasing habits, access to food stores, perceived quality of foods available, and food assistance program use.
- Supply chain case studies for cabbage and fluid milk were completed, and case studies of other supply chains are in progress. These case studies will allow researchers to simulate the impact of interventions intended to facilitate access of healthy foods by underserved communities on producers, processors, distributors and consumers in the NE.
- The project's innovative use of modeling methodologies inspired the development of a national Food Systems Modeling Learning Community through which researchers are building their understanding and uses of modeling methods. Participants will also engage practitioners to foster understanding and use of modeling in projects on the ground.
- Five students whose graduate study was connected to the project graduated with master's or doctoral degrees.
- The project's newsletter was launched in January, and four issues were sent to more than 300 external subscribers in 2014. The project website has had 6,000 page views to date.



## ***News Magazine for Agricultural Scientists Features EFSNE Project on Its July 2014 Cover***

The cover story of the July 2014 issue of *CSA News* is a six-page feature about the EFSNE project. The story, written by Madeline Fisher, features interviews with several members of the EFSNE project team and is freely available on the *CSA News* website.

*CSA News* is the official magazine for members of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America. A monthly publication with a circulation of 10,000, it provides research and industry news for its members in the agronomy, crop sciences, and soil sciences fields.



## ***AFRI Food Security Conference Grant***

With the help of a \$50,000 grant from USDA/NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), a group of EFSNE project team members came together with grocery store owners/operators and community leaders from several of the project's study locations for an interactive learning opportunity.

The goals of the workshop were to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of EFSNE research activities, and to share insights into the role that EFSNE project communities play in regional food issues. Store owners and community leaders learned about what EFSNE researchers have been doing and how it relates to their work, and provided input and

*Members of the EFSNE team met for the annual team meeting in September in Greenbelt, MD.*



feedback to the researchers. Store owners shared about their store's challenges and successes and heard from other store owners in the region. Community leaders learned about other food-related activities being carried out in the EFSNE project communities and brainstormed about EFSNE-supported activities that they might pursue in their own communities.

The workshop took place in Reiserstown, MD, in November.

## *National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (NARDeP) Center*

Led by Stephan J. Goetz and in collaboration with the other Regional Rural Development Center (RRDC) leaders, the NARDeP Center was formed in 2012 to provide information about the increasingly contentious and complex rural policy issues facing the U.S. The four RRDCs have demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a team to develop and deliver national programs by drawing on land-grant college and university resources.

This year the Northeast Center led efforts to distribute NARDeP outputs more widely by issuing press releases for a selection of policy briefs and research papers. Most recently, a paper on rural broadband adoption gained considerable traction in the popular press, and was covered in more than a dozen newspapers.



NARDeP also developed paper sessions on Mobility and Inequality (with Rural Implications) for the 2014 Regional Science Association meetings held in November, in DC. Follow-up meetings with the White House Rural Policy Council are planned for February 2015 (joint with RUPRI).

Now in its second year, the NARDeP Center has engaged dozens of experts at land-grant universities, national organizations and agencies to develop and deliver timely policy-relevant information for national leaders in the public and private sectors, via policy briefs, data briefs, webinars, working papers, and a book. A recent selection of these resources appears below. These and more are available online at [www.nardep.info](http://www.nardep.info).

### **Selected Recent Policy & Data Briefs**

- Refugees in Rural Communities: A Win-Win? (Bloem, November 2014)
- Regional Water Management Institutions and Unconventional Gas Development in the Northeast/Central U.S. (Abdalla, August 2014)
- The Future of Jobs in America (Moretti, June 2014)
- Local and Non-Local Employment Associated with Marcellus Shale Development in Pennsylvania (Hardy and Kelsey, July 2014)
- Ranching Economics and Sage-Grouse in the West (Tanaka, Rimbey, and Torell, May 2014)

### **Selected Recent Special Projects**

- Our Energy Future: Socioeconomic Implications and Policy Options for Rural America (Book by Don E. Albrecht, published in 2014)
- Paper Sessions Presented at Regional Science Association meetings:
  - Regional/Rural Development I: The Geography of Inequality and Income Mobility I: Inequality
  - Regional/Rural Development II: The Geography of Inequality and Income Mobility II: Economic Mobility

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### **NARDeP Policy Review Council**

- Sheldon Jones, Farm Foundation
- Carolyn Brooks, 1890's Executive Director
- Dina Chacon-Reitzel, Commodity Groups
- Benita Litson, Navajo Nation

### **NARDeP Research Advisory Council**

- Richard Krannich, Utah State University
- Maria Marshall, Purdue University
- Mark Partridge, Ohio State University
- Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University

## *NERCRD To Lead AMS Grant Writing Workshops and Technical Assistance (AMSTA) Project*

The Northeast Center, along with the three other Regional Rural Development Centers, was selected by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to develop and help deliver a national curriculum designed to support grant seekers applying for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Programs (FMLFPP). This represents an exciting opportunity, especially for Extension in the Northeast region, to provide leadership in developing a program to support



farmer and other groups in rural and urban areas that are seeking to better connect consumers and producers through local food markets. The project, which started in September 2014, is funded for one year in the amount of \$900,000. The Northeast Center director has been working with Extension in each of the Northeast states to identify staff who would administer the program within each state in 2015. **Learn more at [www.amsta.net](http://www.amsta.net).**

*In the history of the RRDCs this is an unprecedented collaboration in terms of the scope and national reach of a single project. We are pleased to be a part of this partnership effort and expect that it may become a model for efficient delivery of federal educational programs in the future.*

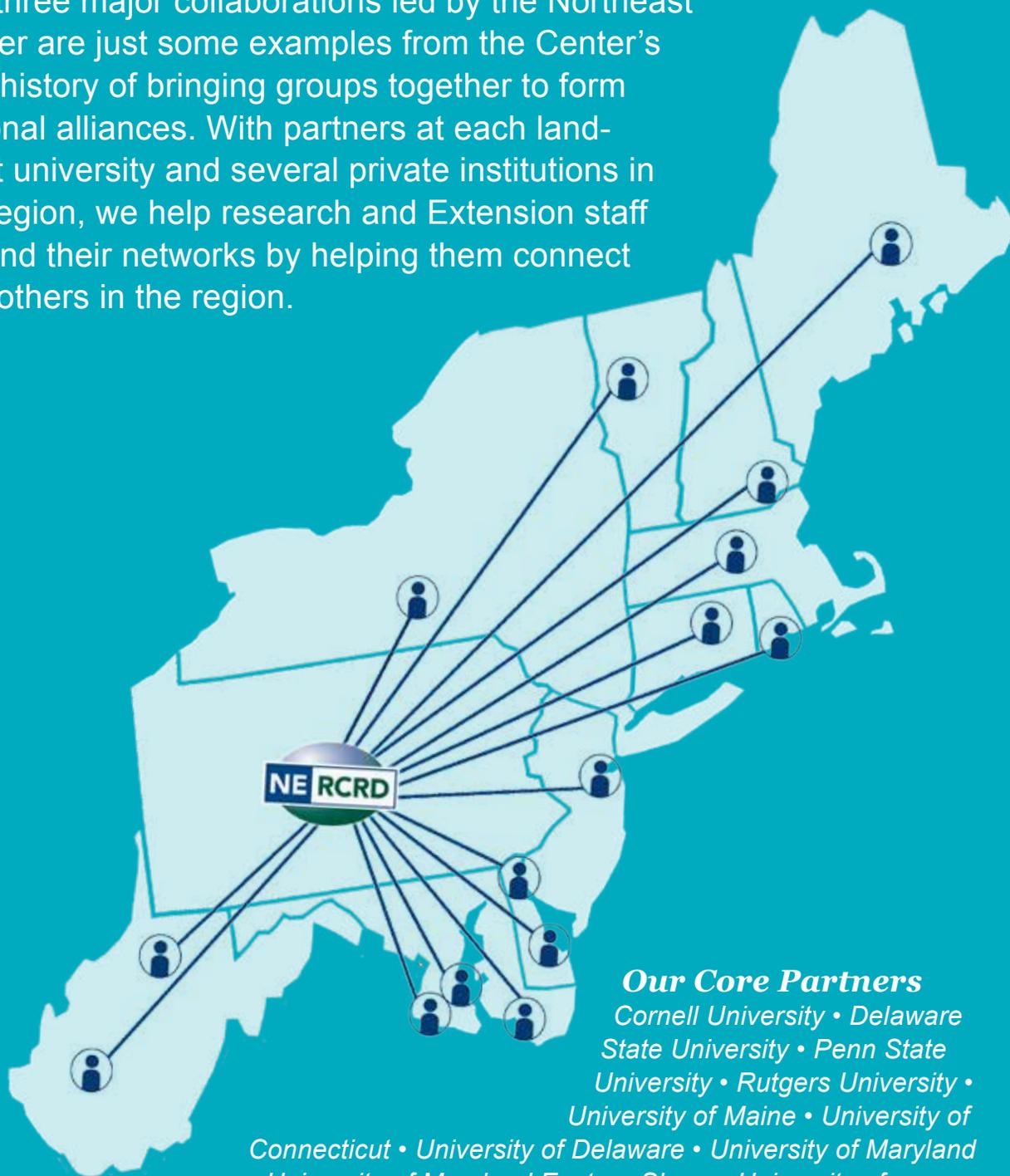
### *External Grant Funding (2014-2015)*

Name	Amount (\$)	Lifespan (years)	NE LGU Share (%)
AFRI EFSNE Global Food Security	5,000,000	5	72
AFRI NARDeP Polcy Research	768,000	2	>50
AFRI Foundational (UVM, ERS)	472,669	3	49
AFRI Capacity (UMES, UDE, TSU)	450,000	3	49
AMS Technical Assistance new	900,000	1	30
DHHS Mental Health, SAMSHA CAPE II new	3,400,000	1	tbd
AFRI NIFA Conference Grant new	50,000	1	100
Kauffman Fdn Twitter Network Analysis	10,000	1	100
<b>TOTAL (annual, to NE LGUs)</b>	<b>1,250,000+</b>		

All grants except CAPE address food systems development issues. The NCRCD is lead PI on the DHHS grant.

# *Leading Innovative Research*

The three major collaborations led by the Northeast Center are just some examples from the Center's long history of bringing groups together to form regional alliances. With partners at each land-grant university and several private institutions in the region, we help research and Extension staff expand their networks by helping them connect with others in the region.



## ***Our Core Partners***

*Cornell University • Delaware State University • Penn State University • Rutgers University • University of Maine • University of Connecticut • University of Delaware • University of Maryland • University of Maryland Eastern Shore • University of Massachusetts • University of New Hampshire • University of Rhode Island • University of the District of Columbia • University of Vermont • West Virginia State University • West Virginia University*

## *Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation (CAPE)*

Grappling with behavioral health problems, especially substance abuse and mental health issues, is a continual struggle for many communities across the country. A new national program has been developed to provide resources for local decision makers to get a better understanding of the behavioral health concerns in their regions.

The program, called Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning & Education (CAPE), is led by NCRCRD Director and Michigan State University Professor Scott Loveridge and involves the collaboration of the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers.

With funding from the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and facilitated by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA), CAPE's goal is to look at ways in which local health decision makers are currently gaining information on the behavioral health practices in their communities and how access to needed information can be increased.

The project taps into land-grant university resources across the country and in ten pilot communities, including three Northeast communities, in the states of Vermont, Maryland, and West Virginia. As a result of the project, the CAPE team will have an understanding of how local leaders are getting their community behavioral health information; local leaders, in turn, will have a tool-kit of valuable data sources and training programs to inform their decision making.

More information about the community behavioral health benchmarking initiative is available at: <http://healthbench.info/>.



*The CAPE leadership team. Pictured from left: Stephan Goetz, Don Albrecht, Scott Loveridge, Rachel Welborn, Dee Owens, and Brent Elrod.*

## *CAPE II: Developing Community-Level Warning Systems for Emerging Behavioral Health Issues*

Building on capacities established by the CAPE project, CAPE II is developing and testing innovative ways to establish community-level early warning systems for emerging community behavioral health issues.

Funded for \$3.6 million, the project has three thrusts. Under one thrust, panel communities will recruit and engage knowledgeable individuals to complete a biweekly and frequently updated survey. A second thrust will engage communities to develop and test innovative early warning systems. The third thrust involves developing forecasting models using secondary data and social media data sources. The three thrusts will reinforce and inform each other such that the processes and methods are continually updated. Communities will use the information to inform interventions.

## ***Northeast Center Researchers Find That People in Unhappy Places Are Depressed More Than a Week a Month***

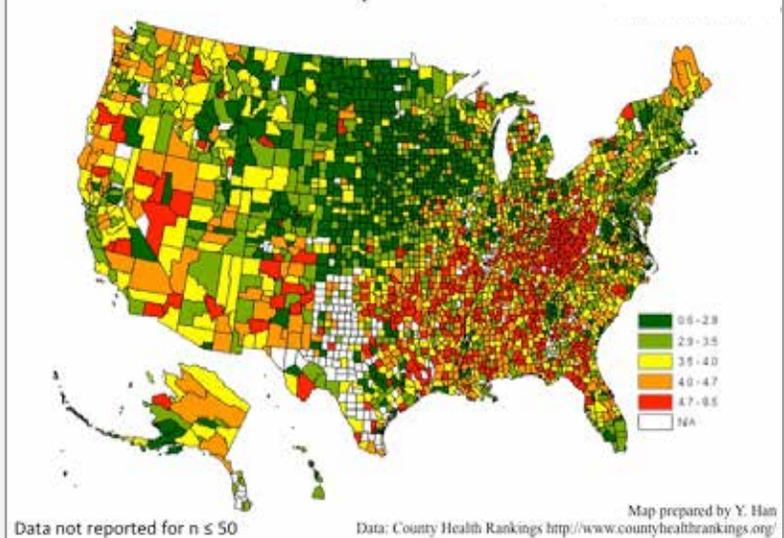
In a paper published in *Social Indicators Research* this year, Northeast Center scientists reported that people in the country's unhappiest communities spend about a quarter of the month so far down in the dumps that it can harm their productivity.

"This is a real concern not just in the United States, but across the world," said Stephan Goetz, director of the Northeast Center and lead author of the study. "Poor mental health can result in considerable economic costs, including losses of billions of dollars to lower productivity and this doesn't even include the staggering personal costs of negative mental health and depression."

"As economists we talk a lot about financial costs, but often don't consider the high personal costs that are incurred in some of these communities, including those associated with drug abuse and crime," said Goetz. "It's gut wrenching to hear stories of how substance abuse has hurt people and destroyed families and we're eager to work with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services to research the problem and find ways to help these communities.

— *Matt Swayne*

### **Poor mental health days 2013**



# Staff Announcements

## ***Kathleen Burke Recognized with University Promotion***

The Northeast Center's Business Manager, Kathleen (Katey) Burke, was recently recognized by Penn State for her efforts and accomplishments with a promotion. Katey's new University job title of Administrative Support Coordinator reflects the budget, contract and staff management responsibilities, in addition to many others she has taken on within the first few months of her appointment, which began July 2012. Congratulations to Katey for all of her hard work and dedication!



## *New Faces at the Northeast Center*

**Kelly Doyle** has joined the Center on a part-time basis. She is a senior in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, double majoring in Environmental Resource Management and Community, Environment, and Development, with a minor in International Agriculture. The blend of courses in these programs represents Kelly's interest in the sustainable development of agricultural practices that best benefit the environment, economy and social well-being of communities.



Kelly fills the position vacated by Amber Houser earlier this year. We wish Amber all the best in her future endeavors.

**Erica Hildabridle** joined the Northeast Center as a summer intern, and will continue to work on research and administrative projects as an Emerging Center Scholar. A 2014 graduate of Penn State's Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education program, she is in her first year as a graduate student in Penn State's Agriculture and Extension Education Program. She enjoys traveling and trying new things wherever she goes. Beginning in August, Erica joined a Center collaboration with the University of Tennessee in Social Networking and Extension work. Erica is planning to spend the majority of next summer in Trinidad and Tobago teaching a course and completing her research in Extension. Her focus is developmental health in youth and combatting Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. Her goal is to educate youth and families about the disease and how to make healthier choices and lifestyle changes.



**Frank Ge** joins us as a postdoctoral scholar working primarily in the Center's signature food systems project, Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast through Regional Food Systems.

Frank's research focuses on the dynamics of food production, distribution and consumption in the United States food system and on developing efficient strategies to enhance the regional food supply chain sustainability in the Northeast. Prior to joining the Northeast Center, Frank worked as a research associate at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Frank obtained his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and his doctoral research focused on food security and agriculture policy analysis. His research interests include computational economics, production economics, regional economics and energy economics.



**Stacie Vance** joined the Center this fall to provide administrative support to the national Agricultural Marketing Service Grant Writing Workshops and Technical Assistance (AMSTA) program that the Northeast Center is leading. Prior to joining the

Center, Stacie worked as a receptionist at The Arc of Centre County, and as a marketing coordinator for Carey On Photography. Stacie received her BS degree in Interior Design from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

# Publications & Presentations

The Northeast Center is dedicated to providing research-based information that helps create regional prosperity. In addition to disseminating this information to our stakeholders via our website, newsletter, and webinars, the Center shares the discoveries of its staff and partners via publications and presentations.

## *Center-Related Publications*

- Brown, J.P., S.J. Goetz, M.C. Ahearn and C. Liang (2014). "Linkages Between Community-Focused Agriculture, Farm Sales, and Regional Growth," *Economic Development Quarterly*, February 2014.
- Goetz, S.J. and A. Rupasingha (2014). "The Determinants of Self-Employment Growth: Insights From County-Level Data, 2000-2009," *Economic Development Quarterly*, February 2014.
- Goetz, S.J. (2014). Labor Market Theory and Models in M.M. Fischer & P. Nijkamp (Eds.), *Handbook of Regional Science* (pp. 35-57). Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- Goetz, S.J., M. Davlasheridze, and Y. Han. County-Level Determinants of Mental Health, 2002-2008. *Social Indicators Research*. (in press)
- Goetz, S. and Y. Han (forthcoming) "Social Capital, County Information Networks and Poverty Reduction," Chapter in S. Deller and J. Halstead (eds), *Social Capital at the Community Level*, Routledge, UK.
- Harris, T.R., S.C. Deller, and S.J. Goetz (2014). Linkages of the Agricultural Sector: Models and Precautions in N.K. Van Alfan (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Agriculture and Food Systems*, vol. 4 (pp. 148-155). San Diego, CA: 2014 Elsevier Inc.
- Loveridge, S., D. Albrecht, R. Welborn, and S.J. Goetz (2014). "Opportunities for Rural Development in Cooperative Extension's Second Century," *Choices*, January 1, 2014.
- Marasteanu, I.J., C. Liang, and S.J. Goetz. (2014). Spatial and Cluster Analysis for Multifunctional Agriculture in New England Region. Poster presented at AAEA July 27-29, 2014.
- Marasteanu, I.J., C. Liang, and S.J. Goetz. (2014). Multifunctional Activities in New England Farms: Success and Continuation. Poster presented at AAEA July 27-29, 2014.
- Liang, J. and S.J. Goetz (2014). The Role of Self-Employment in Mitigating Trade Shocks of Chinese Imports on US County Labor Markets. Paper presented at AAEA July 27-29, 2014.
- Pillen, L. and C. Hinrichs (2014). "Land Link Programs in the Northeast US: A program assessment and lessons learned," Northeast Regional Center Rural Development Paper no. 53, February 2014.
- Rocker, S., K. Devlin, and S.J. Goetz (2014). "Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast through Regional Food Systems. Poster presented at eXtension CLRFS 2014 Food Security Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. September 29 - October 1, 2014.

# Sharing Discoveries

At the Northeast Center, we recognize that individuals are the foundation of rural communities, and that rural societies can be strengthened by increasing the knowledge and skills of their residents. That's why we feel it is important to communicate our research findings in ways that are useful to non-specialist audiences. As part of our communications strategy, we engage the mainstream media to help share our research-based knowledge with the general public.



For example, in February, we developed a brief summary of a paper co-authored by Center director Stephan Goetz, and distributed it to members of the news media. As a result, the study's findings were dispersed broadly, appearing in such publications as *Yahoo! Food*, *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Daily Yonder*, and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association Newsletter.



*“The recent...news story about your research on farmers markets, particularly in the Northeast, caught my eye. Since we are looking to create something along the lines of a permanent farmers market for [our town], we were wondering if your research would provide any insights for our project.”*

— follow-up inquiry as a result of mainstream media coverage

## *Invited Presentations (Selected):*

- **Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast through Sustainable Regional Food Systems**  
Presented at the 2014 AFRI Food Security Sustainable Food Systems Project Director Workshop at NIFA, Washington, DC, September 29, 2014
- Presentation to Congressional Staff with other RRDC directors, Washington, DC., September 3, 2014
- **Rural Development Trends and Issues in the Northeast US**  
Presented by Stephan J. Goetz at the Northeast Regional Rural Development Community and Economic Development Meeting, August 25-28, 2014, Boston, MA, <http://goo.gl/InLJgA>
- **Economic Development Priorities for Federal Stastical Data**  
Presented by Stephan J. Goetz at the AAEEA meeting in Minneapolis, MN July 27-29, 2014. <http://goo.gl/dR0ttB>
- **Regional Approaches to Rural Vitality**  
Presented by the RRDC leadership to A presentation delivered by the RRDC leadership to NIFA on May 28-29, 2014. <http://goo.gl/LVkeIQ>
- **Supporting Entrepreneurs.**  
Presented at the Knight Foundation's Civic Innovation Learning Lab: Harnessing Talent, online format, April 23, 2014
- **Socio-Economic and Demographic Change in Pennsylvania: Implications for Extension**  
Presented at the 2014 Penn State Extension Conference, April 22, 2014, University Park, PA. <http://goo.gl/M8VCsj>

## *National Study of Economic Mobility Uses Northeast Center's Social Capital Data*

The Northeast Center's social capital data collection continues to be a valuable resource for the research community. Most recently, it was used in work by the Equality of Opportunity Project, a research team led by economists from Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley. That research recently was featured on the National Bureau of Economic Research website.

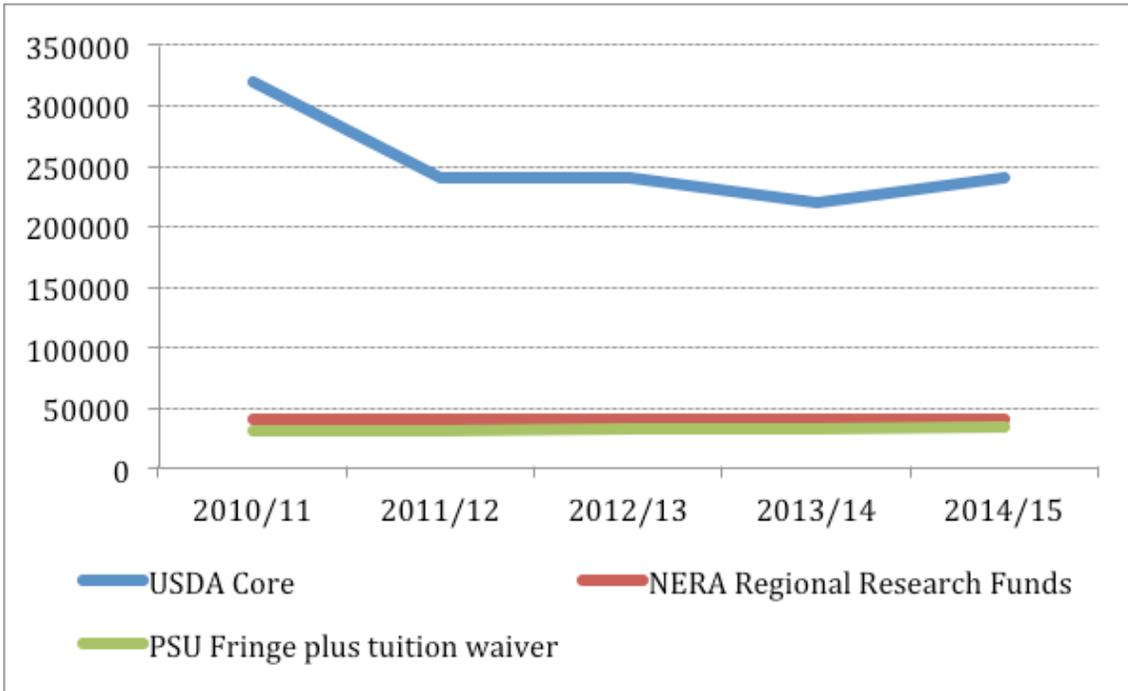
The report, titled "Where is the land of opportunity? The geography of intergenerational mobility in the U.S.," was written by Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez. For more information about the report, visit: <http://goo.gl/62EPTE>.

# Other Services Provided by the Director

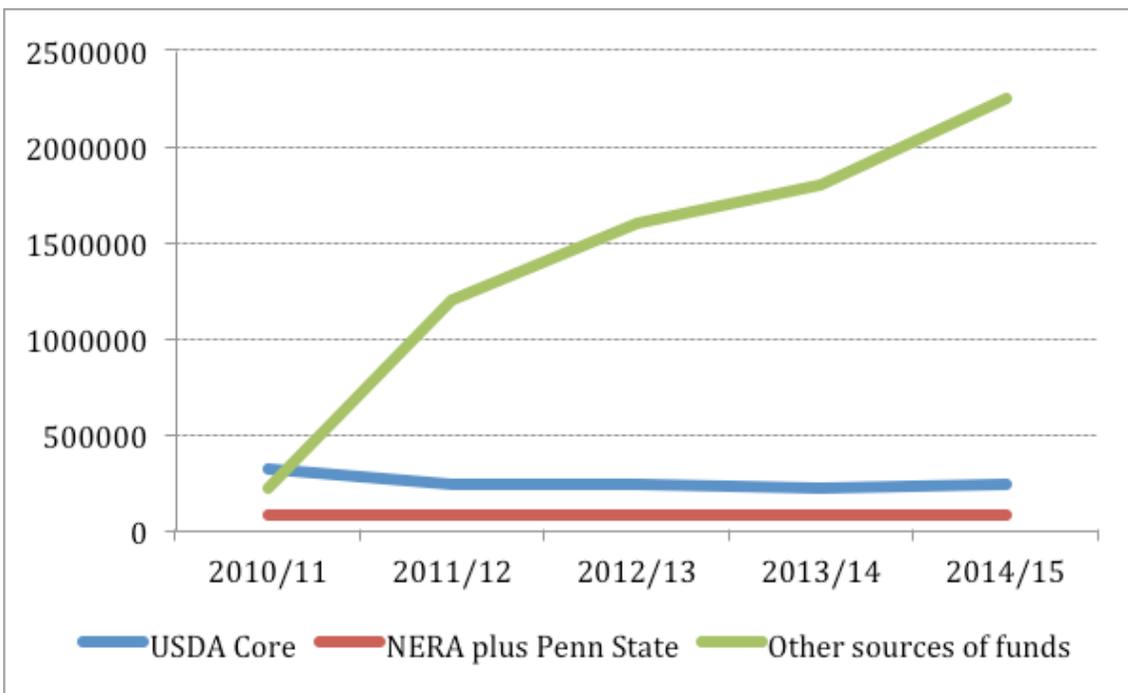
- Member, Board of Directors, The Center for Rural Pennsylvania (A Legislative Agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly).
- Member, Social Sciences Sub-Committee, Agricultural Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP).
- Member, C-FARE Blue Ribbon Panel, Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics; vice-Chair of the Rural Economic Development sub-committee.
- Chair (2013-14) and Member, Outreach Committee, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, 2011-2014.
- Board of Directors, Council on Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE), appointed in 2014 for a three-year term.

# NERCRD Funding

## *Evolution of Center Core Funding*

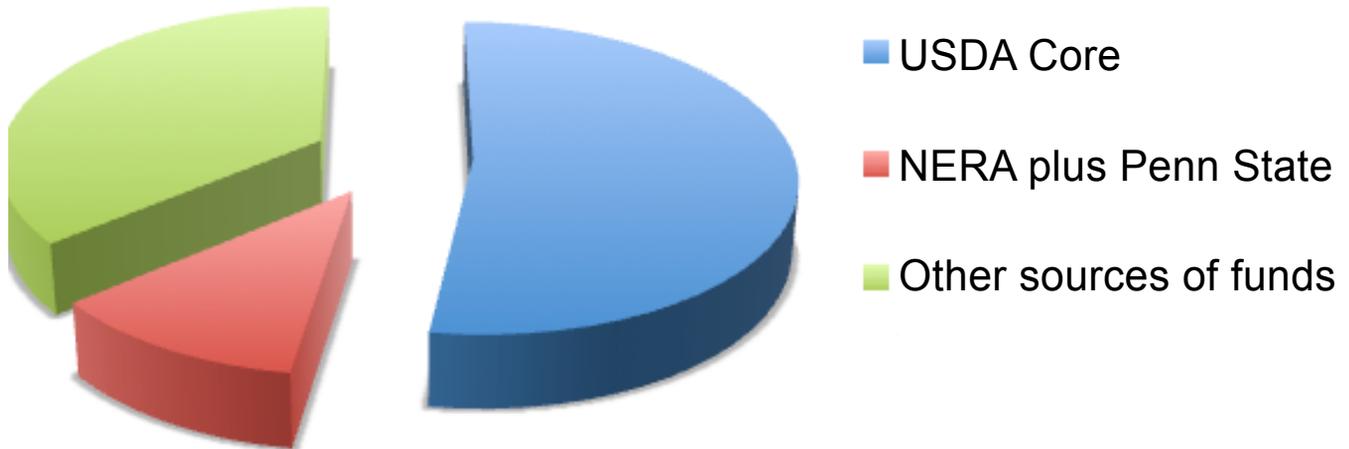


## *Evolution of External vs. Core Funding*

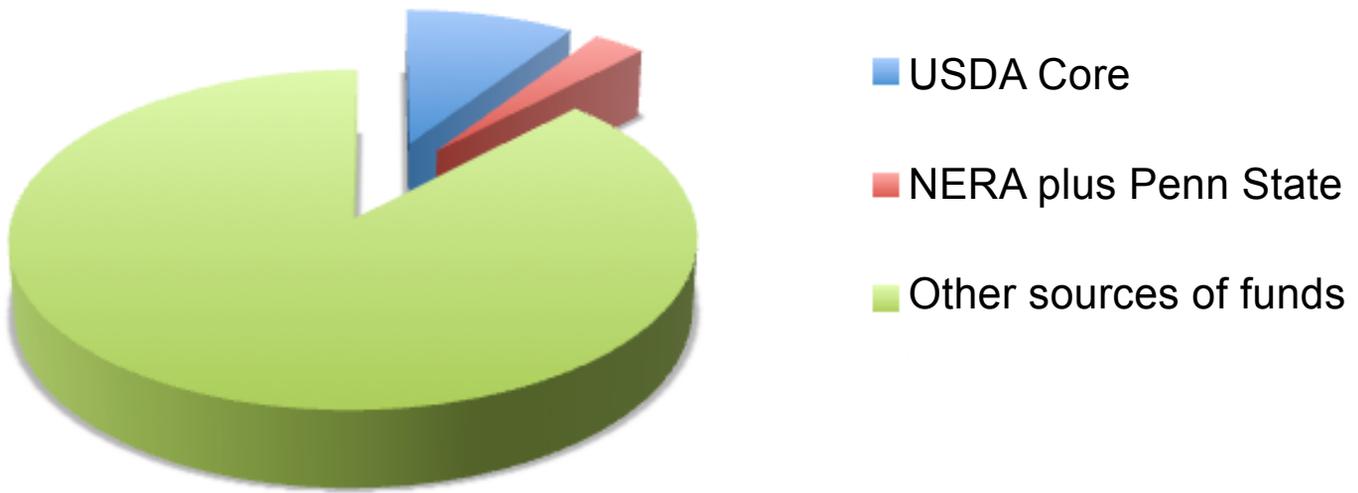


## *Sources of NERCRD Funding, 2010/11 vs. 2013/14*

### *2010/11 Sources of NERCRD Funds*



### *2014/15 Sources of NERCRD Funds*



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