

**Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)
and
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP)**

August 15, 2001

Dear Extension and Research Administrators, and ESCOP/ECOP Liaisons:

On January 11, 2001 you received an email from us indicating that a report submitted by the ESCOP/ECOP Joint Planning Committee, entitled "Strategies for Enhanced Engagement", was available on the ESCOP Workroom web site (direct URL <http://www.escop.msstate.edu/committee/engage.pdf>). This report summarizes issues raised in recent studies on the future of the land grant university system and offered a number of recommendations for your consideration.

At the request of the ESCOP and ECOP Executive Committees, the Joint Planning Committee has developed an action plan to further detail what steps may be taken by the research and extension system to enhance our engagement activities. This document, entitled "Implementation Plan for Recommendations in The Strategies For Enhanced Engagement Report", is available at <http://www.escop.msstate.edu/committee/engagement-action-plan.pdf>.

The actions outlined are intended to be used as a roadmap for enhanced engagement at the institutional, state, regional, and national levels by the research and extension system in conjunction with its partners. This action plan is also intended to facilitate an ongoing effort of continuous improvement in following the principles and practices of engagement. However, for these actions to have a significant impact on institutional engagement, they must be embraced by the faculty with support through joint endorsement by the local research and extension directors and professional societies.

We realize that many of these actions are ongoing at some institutions, however we encourage you to consider and support those additional actions which you feel may be helpful to enhancing your engagement activities, particularly at the faculty level. We look forward to an exciting and challenging future as extension and research within Land Grant colleges of agriculture work together in this new century. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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