

**DRAFT: 2/09/09**



## **USDA-ARS NPA Leadership Conference 2009**

Marriott Denver Tech Center  
Denver, Colorado  
April 20-22, 2009

### ***“Research Excellence: Today’s Challenges, Tomorrow’s Successes”***

#### **Monday, April 20**

- 4:00 pm - Planning Committee meets in Hospitality Suite –  
***(Room 2024)***
- 4:00 - 6:00 pm - Registration - ***(Atrium Foyer)***
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm - No-Host Bar, hors d’oeuvres ***(Atrium)***  
Question box. Posters. Jeopardy!

#### **Tuesday, April 21**

- 7:30 - 8:00 am - CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST – ***(Atrium)***  
- Registration - ***(Ballroom Foyer)***
- 8:00 - 8:05 am - **Moderator – *(Evergreen A&B Ballroom)* ..... Mickey McGuire**
- 8:05 - 8:15 am - Welcome/Charge..... Will Blackburn
- 8:15 - 8:45 am - ARS Administrator’s Address ..... Ed Knipling
- 8:45 - 9:15 am - Budget and National Program Updates ..... Steven Shafer
- 9:15 - 10:15 am - Keynote Speaker *(Riding the Brand: The Power of Purposeful Leadership)* ..... Jim Whitt, Purpose Unlimited
- 10:15 - 10:45 am - BREAK - ***(Ballroom Foyer)***
- 10:45 – 11:15 am - AFM Deputy Administrator’s Address. .... Jim Bradley
- 11:15 - 11:45 am - Recruitment & Retention of a Diverse Workforce ..... Don McLellan
- 11:45 - 1:00 pm - GROUP LUNCHEON - ***(Atrium)***  
Luncheon Speaker..... Richard Beeman

**Concurrent Sessions**

- 1:00 - 2:00 pm - Session 1
- 2:00 - 3:00 pm - Session 2
- 3:00 - 3:30 pm - BREAK - (*Ballroom Foyer*)
- 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Session 3

Name of Session	Presenter	Meeting Room
SharePoint Concepts and Operations	Chuck Andre/Bonnie King	TBD
Avoiding EEO/CR Complaints	Don McLellan/Jim Bradley	TBD
Performance Management	Will Blackburn	TBD
Employee Relations	Mary Byrd/Sheila Pannell	TBD
Leadership Development	Mickey McGuire	TBD
Conflict Resolution/Crucial Conversations	Jeff Schmitt	TBD
Selecting the Right Agreement	Jim Quaratino/Bryan Kaphammer	TBD
How to Use the E-OPF and EPP	Kathi White/Mike Wiggett	TBD
Access On-Line	Gail Wenaas	TBD
CATS	Lisa Mullenax	TBD
CPAIS	Linda Armand	TBD
NPA Scientific Success Stories	Several scientists will discuss their successes and impact	TBD

4:30 pm - ADJOURN - dinner on your own

**Wednesday, April 22**

- 7:30 - 8:00 am - CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST – (*Atrium*)
- 8:00 - 8:05 am - **Moderator - (*Evergreen A&B Ballroom*).....Rosalind James**
- 8:05 - 9:05 am - The National Food and Energy Situation  
..... Kitty Smith, Administrator, ERS
- 9:05 - 10:05am - The Global Food & Energy Situation ..... Kenneth Cassman, UNL
- 10:05 - 10:30 am - BREAK – (*Ballroom Foyer*)
- 10:30 - 11:00 am - Facilitated Discussion
- 11:00 - 11:30 am - OCIO.....Melinda McClanahan
- 11:30 - 12:30 pm - GROUP LUNCHEON - (*Atrium*)  
(*Hall of Fame Video*)

**Research Breakout Session – (Evergreen A&B Ballroom)**

- 1:00 - 2:00 pm - **Area Director’s Message** ..... **Will Blackburn**  
 2:00 - 2:45 pm - Facilitated Round Table Discussions  
 2:45 - 3:15 pm - Round Table Report Out

Name of Discussion	Description
Juggling Research and Leadership	Maintaining a high quality research program of one’s own while meeting RL leadership and Unit responsibilities. Including how to efficiently use ARS software from an RL perspective, such as WebT&A, GovTrip, or Purchase Card Software.
Customer Focus Groups	Ensuring technology transfer to stakeholders.
Reducing Unit Overhead Costs	Unit survival strategies in the face of increasing agency-mandated fees, overhead costs, and dwindling fiscal resources.
Maintaining a Top-Notch Support Staff	Keeping support staff motivated and trained even after they have hit the glass ceiling, their supervisor has retired or relocated, their skills are no longer essential, etc. Motivating underperforming scientists or support staff.
Developing Staff	Mentoring new scientists. Developing leadership skills in yourself and your staff. Interacting with a diverse staff.
Improving Collaborations	Developing collaborative relationships between Units and/or with University faculty.

**Administrative Breakout Session - (Conifer)**

- 1:00 - 3:15 pm - **Moderator** ..... **Mike Wiggett**  
 ◆ Northern Plains Area Council of Office Professionals  
 ◆ ARIS - AIMS  
 ◆ FTIS - Foreign Travel  
 ◆ General Question & Answer Session

3:15 - 3:45 pm - BREAK - (*Ballroom Foyer*)

3:45 - 3:50 pm - **Moderator (Evergreen A&B Ballroom)** ..... **Bucky Herman**

3:50 - 5:00 pm - Motivational Speaker (*Leap to Leadership: Principles of Eagles*)  
 ..... Cheewa James, Horizons Speaking Services

5:30 - 6:30 pm - Cash Bar - (*Ballroom Foyer*)

Dress - Casual!

6:30 pm - **Moderator - (Evergreen A&B Ballroom)** ..... **Mickey McGuire**  
 Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

8:00 pm - Wrap-up/Closing ..... Will Blackburn