



Happy New Year to all members, partners and friends of the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees (NOPBNRCSE)! As the President of The Organization, it is my privilege to serve this wonderful organization, which was established in 1992 to enhance the awareness, knowledge, and understanding of NRCS as well as to identify and address concerns of employees and customers. I would like to thank former President Kalven Trice and Executive Board members who served for the past two years and provided leadership to The Organization. I would also like to thank the planning committee and its chair, Vivian Dickson, for dedicating countless hours to plan the 2011 NOPBNRCSE training conference. Congratulations to my fellow 2011-2013 Executive Board members who will assist me in planning our upcoming annual training conference in Atlanta, GA.

Here's a sneak preview of upcoming activities under my leadership this year. There will be technological advances to improve communication to The Organization members. Soon we will launch a Facebook page to establish a network community for members to keep abreast of Organization activities. We will change our website to incorporate additional functionality for members. We will launch a "members only" section to provide access to member information such as Executive Board and annual business meeting minutes, webinar information and other organization business. The website will provide online membership payments, conference registrations and donations. This will help us as we become more efficient and eliminate the use of hardcopy documents. We will strive to keep our members and visitors abreast of activities.

We will develop a business plan to keep members informed about Executive Board activities over the next two years. This plan will include goals and action items that align with the Organization's mission and objectives. I ask that all the membership become engaged and volunteer their time for upcoming ventures. We will be implementing projects that benefit not only members, but also programs that address our landowner concerns. Some of these action items follow:

- Create a mentoring program where longtime members are paired with new members.
- Partner with the Minority Landowner Magazine to conduct landowner surveys and collect ideas on how we can assist our landowners nationwide.
- Continue to support conferences such as the Professional Ag Workers Conferences, Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute, and Federation of Southern Cooperatives Annual Meeting.
- Partner with Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) to serve as professional advisors to the MANRRS chapters.
- Maintain open lines of communication with fellow Employee Organizations in an effort to provide recommendations to NRCS leaders on employee concerns.

Over the next two years we will provide an additional focus on our landowners and operators who could greatly benefit from our mission. The Organization will be marketed to increase the awareness of NOPBNRCSE, who we are, and how we can assist landowners in continuing their conservation efforts. I will establish additional ad hoc committees to carry out these additional focus areas. I encourage our lifetime, regular, and sustaining members to become active and sign up for as many activities as their schedules allow. I also plan to reach out to non-members and encourage them to join The Organization

as well. In order for NOPBRCSE to be successful, it will take each and every one of us to volunteer to help. As President, I will have an open door policy. Members and prospective members can contact me through the various communication tools we will soon implement. In 2008, The Organization implemented a resolution process to address items from chapters and this process will be used under my administration.

Again I look forward to serving each and every one of you over the next two years and thank you for electing me as the 2011-2013 NOPBNRCSE President.

Sincerely,



**Drenda Williams**

*President*

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For questions or comments about the eLink newsletter, contact Sylvia Rainford, National Communications Committee Chair, at [news@nopbnrcse.org](mailto:news@nopbnrcse.org) To subscribe or unsubscribe from our mailing list or to submit information for publishing, write to us at [webm\\_nopbnrcse@yahoo.com](mailto:webm_nopbnrcse@yahoo.com).



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