

# 2015-2016 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

## Professional Development Committee

\***Chair:** Craig Nielsen, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Atlanta, GA

**Chair:** Laura Van Wageningen-Birdsill, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Denver, CO

**Chair:** Shana Davis, Kroger Corporation, Nashville, TN

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**Charge 1:** Provide IFPTI with a list of potential Fellowship projects that future Fellows can consider.

**Discussion:** Current and Fellow Alumni will be requested to submit project ideas.

**Recommendations:** A list of project ideas will be submitted at the 2016 AFDO Conference.

### **Executive Committee Action:**

Approval  Disapproval  Date 6/24/16

**Charge 2:** Develop a Fellowship Alumni Newsletter.

**Discussion:** Interview/profile questions were emailed to Fellows (current Cohort and Alumni) and mentors. Responses will be summarized into articles for the newsletter. Additionally, one Fellow will be selected for an in-depth interview and profile for the newsletter.

**Recommendations:** The Fellowship Newsletter will be completed and released for the 2016 AFDO Conference.

### **Executive Committee Action:**

Approval  Disapproval  Date 6/24/16

**Charge 3:** The Chair and/or Co-Chair(s) participate in Fellowship Advisory Meetings.

**Discussion:** There were no Fellowship Redevelopment/Advisory meetings that the Committee chairs were invited to. Joe Corby secured Craig Kaml to provide an update on the Fellowship Redevelopment Project at the Professional Development Committee meeting at the 2016 AFDO Conference. Hopefully, additional information on the status of the Fellowship Program will be provided by Mr. Kaml.

**Recommendations:** Committee Chairs should be available for Fellowship advisory meetings, should any take place.

### **Executive Committee Action:**

Approval  Disapproval  Date 6/24/16

**Charge 4:** Identify/determine new ways for Fellows to get involved in affiliates and AFDO

**Discussion:** Funding and time away from their assigned duties continue to be important factors for Fellows and their activity/participation in AFDO and the affiliates. Some agencies put time restrictions on their employees,

*\*Responsible for submission of reports*

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limiting their ability to commit to professional affiliations. Additionally, some agencies do not pay membership dues for their employees. Travel grants and comped/reduced conference registration can help offset the funding issues, but ultimately it's up to their respective agencies to allow Fellows the time to attend meetings and participate in committees. Responses from Fellows that have achieved upward mobility within their agency following their participation in the Fellowship program tend to participate more in professional organizations. This may be attributed to congruence with their job responsibilities as they advance within their organization.

**Recommendations:** Committee work is a vital component of AFDO and the affiliates. Fellows that are still members of AFDO, but cannot attend the conference due to budgetary/time considerations, should still be afforded the opportunity to participate in Committee work. If there was a mechanism available for potential committee members to participate in the annual meeting (via webinar, conference call, or videotaped committee meetings available through AFDO and the affiliates' websites - or even through an AFDO YouTube channel), they might feel better equipped to contribute and to participate with webinars/conference calls throughout the remainder of the year.

In regards to membership dues, perhaps consideration can be given for a discounted Fellow Alumni membership rate, or offer a "package" (or subsidized) membership for AFDO and his/her regional affiliate.

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**Charge 5:** Identify ways for Fellow-involvement with AFDO Local Arrangements and identifying potential conference speakers and presentations.

**Discussion:** As stated in the Charge #4 discussion, funding and time are major factors for Fellows to be involved with AFDO Local Arrangements.

**Recommendations:** Comped conference registration would be a good incentive for Fellows to commit to being a part of AFDO Local Arrangements.

Fellows continue to be involved in local and national food safety associations/conferences. Even if Fellows are not able to participate in AFDO or the affiliates; referring speakers, presentations, or topics observed at these other conferences/meetings would be a great help in identifying presentations for the AFDO/affiliate conferences. Additionally, if a Fellow recommends a presentation/presenter that agrees to present at AFDO, perhaps that Fellow could receive a reduced registration fee, or some other conference related incentive (free AFDO bingo card, meal voucher/gift card for a restaurant near the conference, extra drink coupon at the events).

**Executive Committee Action:**

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