

Editor's Note

The institutions established by the National Land Grant Colleges Act of 1890 are commonly known as the "1890 Institutions." This issue of *Southern Rural Sociology* is dedicated to the 1890's Centennial Celebration of the founding of these institutions. They are part of this nation's Land-Grant College System and were created to provide educational and economic opportunities for black Americans. The Act has been called the single most important government step in connection with the training of people of color to become scientific and professional personnel.

One hundred years later, these institutions have earned national and international stature for their educational research and outreach accomplishments. Their graduates include many of today's national and world leaders in every aspect of human achievement. Some of their graduates are social scientists working in the South, many of whose works appear in the pages of *Southern Rural Sociology* from time to time.

Southern Rural Sociology (SRS) takes this opportunity to express appreciation to the 1890 Association of Research Directors (ARD) which graciously agreed to fund the basic publication costs of this issue. This issue of SRS contains articles which are related in some way to the 1890 Institutions. They are either directly concerned with the 1890 Institutions, written by graduates or faculty of these institutions, or deal with social science concerns which have long been a traditional focus of the 1890 Institutions.

SRS would also like to thank the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) for small, but important emergency financial support twice during the past two years when special extra costs have threatened to run SRS over budget. An additional thank you to SRDC is necessary this year, since they also agreed to publish SRS at a very reasonable cost.

Finally, SRS would like to thank all of the authors who worked diligently to prepare articles for this issue. Some had to start with the 1890 theme at the first call for papers and push a completed

article through the review process to completion in a very short time. For those authors who made it, we extend a special note of congratulations. For those who did not complete all the steps in time, we plan to publish those articles which are approved through the review process in subsequent issues. Thanks to you all for your exemplary efforts.

We are happy to announce that *Sociological Abstracts* has agreed to publish abstracts of *SRS* journal articles going back to 1986, Volume 4. In addition, articles in the current issue are copyrighted and we are in the process of arranging copyright protection for all previous articles going back through Volume 1.