

2025 Excellence in Leadership Award Winners

Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD)

Vernon L. Jones, Ph.D.

Retired Associate Dean and Associate Research Director of Land Grant Programs
Sherman Lewis School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Langston University



Vernon L. Jones recently retired as Associate Dean and Associate Research Director of Land Grant Programs in the Sherman Lewis School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at Langston University (Langston, Oklahoma). He served at the University for over forty years. During his tenure at Langston University, he served as a Research Scientist, Acting Coordinator for the Division of Applied Sciences, Administrator of Cooperative Extension, Associate Research Director, Director of Academic Programs in the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Civil Rights Officer, Responsible Officer for the Langston University Exchange Visitor Scholars Program and Associate Dean.

Prior to joining Langston University, Vernon spent nearly three years as a Research Scientist at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. He has had extensive administrative experience in all three areas of the Land-grant mission.

Vernon's external committee assignments have included serving as the 1890 Advisor for the Program and Staff Development Committee, member of the Southern Rural Development Center Technical and Operational Advisory Committee, member and later Chair of the eXtension Board of Directors, member of the Committee on Legislation and Policy, member of the 1890 Universities Foundation, member of the APLU Council on Governmental Affairs, Budget and Legislative Committee, APLU Board of Agriculture Assembly Policy Board of Directors' 1890 Alternate (two terms), and a member of the agInnovation 2025 Road Map Committee.

Vernon is a past Chair of the Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD). He also served as secretary, Chair-Elect and Chair of ARD. Vernon received his Doctor of Philosophy Degree and Master's Degree in Crop Production from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. His Bachelor of Science Degree in Plant Science was earned at Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.