

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors
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The WAAESD, one of five such regional associations, is comprised of 13 western states and the 4 Pacific trust territories. The Association was formally organized in 1948 in part to aid in the planning and management of research activities important to the region. Another factor contributing to the formation of the associations was the Congressional requirement that all agricultural experiment stations spend 25% of their formula fund allocation on regional research.

Each association has an Executive Director and an administrative assistant who manage the region's portfolio of multistate projects. These duties include program management, regular needs assessments, facilitating project development and review, and assuring accountability. The Western Director's Office (WDO) works with the Regional Coordination and Implementation Committee to review all regional project requests and projects. The WDO manages over 80 multistate projects. The office staff works with counterparts in other regions and with a national steering committee to assure that the NIMSS is working properly and is meeting the needs of users. The WDO also serves as the principal liaison with the NIFA Office of Planning and Accountability which has oversight responsibility of the multistate research program.

As the Executive Directors of the WAAESD, Dr. Harrington assists the agricultural experiment station directors with development of policies and programs, needs assessment, promoting, articulating and advocating the priorities, communications and information management, and enhancing multistate activities within the region and among the other regions in the U.S.

In 2001, the WAAESD partnered with the Directors of Extension and Academic Programs in the Western Region with a commitment to develop increased functional integration of multistate activities. The commitment is manifested by joint planning efforts and the ongoing development of a regional strategic plan. Dr. Harrington works with the Directors of Cooperative Extension and the Directors of Academic Programs to on specific efforts aimed at enhancing multistate collaboration.

The Executive Directors also have national responsibilities with the Experiment Station Section (ESS), the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP). ESCOP, formed in 1905, is the executive governing body for the ESS under the Board on Agriculture Assembly within the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). The Executive Directors provide crucial support to all ESCOP activities and to the national agenda with USDA and Congress.

The proceedings, actions and activities of the WAAESD can be found at <http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/WAAESD/>