

# Pre-Conference Workshop

## Leadership Development for Agricultural and Applied Economics

Sponsors: AAEA Senior Section and Chairs, Heads and Administrators  
Information Roundtable Section (CHAIRS)  
Saturday, July 26, 2025



**8:00 AM**      **BREAKFAST**

**8:30 AM**      **WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS**

Sarah Low, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois (CHAIRS) and Evert Van der Sluis, Professor of Economics, South Dakota State University (Senior Section)

**8:45 AM**      **LEADERSHIP JOURNEYS FOR APPLIED AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

Moderator: Sean Fox, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University

- Jay Akridge, Trustee Chair in Teaching and Learning Excellence, Purdue University
- Dawn Thilmann, Professor and Director, USDA Regional Food Business Center, Colorado State University
- Titus Awokuse, Vice Provost and Dean, International Studies and Programs, Michigan State University

**10:15 AM**      **BREAK**

**10:30 AM**      **IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR LEADERS IN THE FIELD OF APPLIED AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

Moderator: Stephanie Mercier, Senior Policy Adviser, Farm Journal Foundation

- Paul Ellinger: Vice President, CFO, and Comptroller, University of Illinois System
- Kelly Maguire, Assistant Administrator, Economic Research Service, USDA
- Joe Parcell, Director, K-State Risk Management Center, Kansas State University

**12:00 PM**      **LUNCH**

**1:00 PM**      **CAREER PATHS FOR LEADERS: FROM RESEARCH TO LEADERSHIP ACROSS GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

Moderator: Jay Noel, Retired Chair, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

- Brian Lohmar, Head, Department of Agribusiness, California Polytechnic State University
- Leah Palm-Forster, Associate Professor of Applied Economics and Statistics, University of Delaware
- Sarah Low, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**1:00 PM**      **KEY SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES FOR LEADERSHIP**

Moderator: Lisa House, Chair, University of Florida

- Kenrett Jefferson Moore, Professor and Chair, Department of Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education, North Carolina A&T
- Cheryl DeVuyst, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University

**3:00 PM**      **BREAK**

**3:15 - 4:15 PM**      **IDENTIFYING LEADERSHIP LESSONS AND NEXT STEPS FOR PARTICIPANTS: GROUP DISCUSSION**

Chair: Mary Bohman, retired research and statistics leader