



**2011 Bonnie Teater
Community Development
Early Career Achievement
Award Recipient**

Alison Davis
University of Kentucky
Department of Agricultural Economics

The Southern Rural Development Center is proud to honor Dr. Alison Davis as a 2011 recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award*. Davis is an Extension faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky.

Though she has been employed as an Extension specialist for only six years, Davis has become a major asset to the Kentucky Cooperative Extension System and has produced an impressive array of Extension-related programs and publications. Explaining Davis' accomplishments, Dr. Lynn Robbins, professor and chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics, noted that "She is dedicated to advancing economic development and improving health for our rural communities in Kentucky."

Davis has played a vital role in several programs since beginning her career with the department and university. Scott Smith, Dean of the UK College of Agriculture noted that "Her programs are used by faculty here on campus, our agents in the field, hospital administrators, city leaders and other professionals around the country." In summer 2010, Smith selected Davis to be director of the Community and Economic Development Initiative for Kentucky (CEDIK). In just six short months, Davis helped CEDIK be fully operational, and has launched an impressive set of programs that are having positive impacts in the state, Southern region, and nation. These include the launching of the National Issues Forum on economic security, the Stronger Economies Together (SET), and the Turning the Tide on Poverty community circles program both inside and outside the borders of Kentucky.

On behalf of Davis's involvement with SET, USDA State Director, Thomas Fern, explained, "Dr. Davis wrote the curriculum for several of the modules and plays a vital role in its delivery to each region." Overall, "her expertise and leadership have been tremendous assets during the implementation of this important initiative for Kentucky," Fern stated.

Melissa Goodman, Hickman County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, spoke of Dr. Davis' pursuit of grants for CEDIK: "Dr. Davis spearheaded the grant that allowed interdisciplinary work, region-based outreach and technical assistance."

Not only does Davis excel within the Extension system, she also extends her reach by teaching a graduate-level class, "Local Economic Development." The course involves a project in which students prepare a strategic plan for economic development for their selected community. Davis has introduced students to valuable "on the ground" community/economic development experiences, helping equip them with the tools for future engagement in the development process.

As a result of Davis' expertise and dedication to the programs in which she is involved, Davis has earned a well-respected reputation within the Extension community in Kentucky and across the nation. Considering her many accomplishments to date, and her genuine dedication to improving the well-being of small communities, it is most fitting that Dr. Alison Davis be honored as a Southern Rural Development Center 2011 recipient of the *Bonnie Teater Community Development Early Career Achievement Award*.

About the Bonnie Teater Early Achievement Award



Bonnie Teater is a special individual to friends of the Southern Rural Development Center. For 30 years, she provided valuable support and day-to-day assistance to the Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration to all because of the dedication she brought to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's land-grant schools. She currently is enjoying retirement in her home state of Kentucky.

Award Selection Process

The *Early Career Achievement Award* is sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center for the purpose of honoring the work of a "rising star" who has already achieved great things in his/her early career in community development. This is a new award that launched in 2011 and will hence forth be awarded on odd numbered years. Individuals must meet the following qualifications for eligibility:

- Be currently employed by one of the 29 land-grant universities located in the Southern Rural Development Center region
- Serve as an administrator, specialist or agent who has worked in the Extension CD area for ten years or less
- Have an impressive portfolio of Extension-related programs and publications

Furthermore, it is required that nomination packets be assembled and submitted to the SRDC by the deadline date. These packets include:

- A primary letter of nomination prepared by an Extension educator or administrator in the South who has an excellent command of the accomplishments of the nominee
- Select examples of CD Products developed by the nominee
- Support letters from up to three individuals who are knowledgeable of the nominee's Extension CD work, and who can affirm the significance of the person's achievements in advancing CD work within a variety of arenas (i.e. state, region, national, international)

All packets submitted by the deadline date are evaluated by a subcommittee of the SRDC Technical and Operational Advisory Committee (TOAC), a group composed of land-grant university faculty and other rural development partners in the region. It is this subcommittee that selects the *Early Career Achievement* awardee.

