

CAST WILL WELCOME A NEW EVP

Kent Schescke will assume leadership of CAST on June 1, as Linda Chimenti will retire after 15 successful years with the organization. Schescke has served as an FFA student officer, taught agriculture education for 14 years, worked with the Junior Achievement Inc. National Headquarters, and then spent 24 years with the National FFA Organization and Foundation. His experience and philosophy fit smoothly with CAST's overall goals, agreeing that agriculture sectors face many challenges and opportunities but being positive about the future. Schescke was born in Nebraska, grew up in Missouri, and has worked in several states from Colorado to Indiana to Virginia. Set for a return to the Midwest, he brings with him plenty of agriculture insights and connections. CAST is proud to announce him as its new leader.



2015 BORLAUG CAST COMMUNICATION AWARD WINNER

Dr. Channapatna Prakash was announced as the recipient of the 2015 Borlaug CAST Communication Award at the National Press Club on Thursday, April 16. He is an honored faculty member at Tuskegee University in Alabama and widely respected as a scientist and as an effective communicator. Norman Borlaug once praised him for “bringing common sense into the use of biotechnology.”



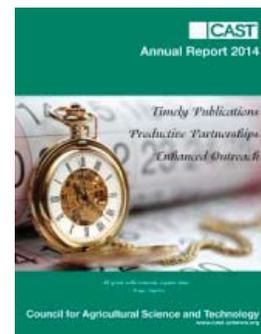
VAN EENENNAAM SPEAKS AT BCCA ANNOUNCEMENT EVENT

Dr. Alison Van Eenennaam (UC-Davis and 2014 Borlaug CAST Communication Award recipient) spoke about “Communicating Science in a Networked World” prior to the announcement of the 2015 BCCA winner. A video of the event is available on the CAST website (www.cast-science.org), which includes Van Eenennaam's talk. There is also a link to a four-minute video summary of her year as the BCCA winner (cast-science.org/borlaug_cast_communication_award/laureates/bcca_laureates/alison-van-eenennaam/).



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

CAST released its annual report in February—with a theme focusing on timeliness, partnership, and growth. It includes summaries of board meetings, rollouts of CAST publications, and information about the 2014 Borlaug CAST Communication Award, as well as articles about the CAST Board of Trustees and CAST growth in general. Members may contact the CAST office for their free copy or view it online at www.cast-science.org/about/annual_reports/.



NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

The newest CAST Board of Trustees member is Julie Borlaug Larson, the Associate Director of External Relations for the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University. She is the granddaughter of Nobel Peace prize laureate and father of the Green Revolution Dr. Norman Borlaug, who was also the author of CAST's first publication in 1973.



Dr. David Songstad, CAST President with the South Dakota delegation. (L to R) Senator John Thune, Congresswoman Kristi Noem, Dr. Songstad, and Senator Michael Rounds



(L to R) Linda Chimenti, CAST EVP; Chavonda Jacobs-Young, ARS Administrator; and Mark Armfelt, CAST President-Elect

SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Directors and senior staff met in Washington, D.C., in April for two days of intense work on organizational policy and governance issues. The focus was on strategic planning, publication proposals, and development work. Board members paid visits to USDA members and Capitol Hill dignitaries, as well as contacts at various companies, organizations, and societies.

CAST MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

CAST is pleased to announce a nearly 100 percent 2015 renewal of its partnerships with company, nonprofit, society, education, and library members. In addition, a new Associate Society member—the Virginia Poultry Federation—came on board.

A spring BOGO (buy one, get one—both at half price) offer also encouraged prospective members to pair up with a friend or colleague.

**Join CAST
and Bring Along
a Friend!**

