



“PARTNERS RETOOLING FOR THE FUTURE TO ACCOMPLISH UNITY AND DIVERSITY.”

To: State Conservationists & Directors (Pacific Basin & Caribbean Area)

Planning is well under way for the **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 2010 Joint Professional Employee Organizations and Special Emphasis Program Managers Training Conference**. The Presidents of the Asian Pacific Islander Organization (APIO), National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees (NOPBNRCSE), National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCSE), and NRCS Civil Rights Division appreciate the opportunity to host this exciting and informative training conference. The training conference is **March 15-19, 2010**, in Kansas City, Missouri at the Downtown Marriott Hotel.

There will be a broad array of training opportunities for employees and partners. The training will include these important topics:

- Recruitment and Retention of Minorities in USDA
- Freedom of Information Act
- Personal Finances
- Retirement Seminars (CSRS/FERS & Thrift Saving Program)
- Effective Presentations
- GovTrip
- New Era of Quarterly Audit Review
- HELP!!!! I'm Stressed Out
- How to be the best Supervisor and Manager
- NRCS Recruitment Fair
- NRCS Business Tools Update
- Congressional Update Senate and House Staffers from Kansas and Missouri
- Generational Differences in the Workplace
- 2008 Farm Bill Update
- Contracting
- Extending Outreach to All Customers
- Career Development
- Health in the Minority Community

Registration information is forthcoming. Hotel reservations can be made at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, 200 West 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. Individual attendees can make reservations directly with Marriott reservations at (800) 810-0850 or (816) 421-6800, or via the Internet at <http://marriott.com/mcidt>. In order to receive the government rate of \$107.00, individuals must identify themselves with Joint Employee's Organizations and Special Emphasis Program Managers Training Conference at the time reservations are made. Rates cannot be changed at check-in or checkout time for guests who fail to identify their affiliation at the time the reservation is requested. Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **January 30, 2010**.

The Employee Organizations Presidents support sponsorship of a joint training conference that will allow the organizations to meet concurrently and allow Special Emphasis Program Managers training. The annual conference will have all of the same components as before. Over the last three years, there have been concerns about the number of conferences USDA employees attend. For the past ten years, there have been at least three training conferences for the NRCS professional employee organizations. Our joint training will eliminate some of that concern.

Thank you for your continuous support. We look forward to having NRCS leadership and employees at this Training Conference.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter Bautista
PETE BAUTISTA
President
APIO

/s/ Kalven L. Trice
KALVEN L. TRICE
President
NOPBNRCSE

/s/ Luis Hernandez
LUIS HERNANDEZ
President
NOPHNRCSE