

FSLI Encore Pre-Conference Leadership Seminar Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, CA November 9, 2019

The pre-conference seminar of the FSLI Encore was held on November 9th, 2019 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, CA prior to the APLU Annual Meeting. The seminar, “What will land-grant universities look like in the future?” began at 8:30 am with a welcome and introductions from Ken Esbenshade, Director, FSLI. He acknowledged the team from Cohort 13 who helped plan the event; Ashli Brown, David Fernandez, Vanessa Jackson, Jim Prince and Todd Winters.

There were thirty-seven FSLI Fellows in attendance representing twenty-five different Universities. Almost every cohort had a representative who attended.

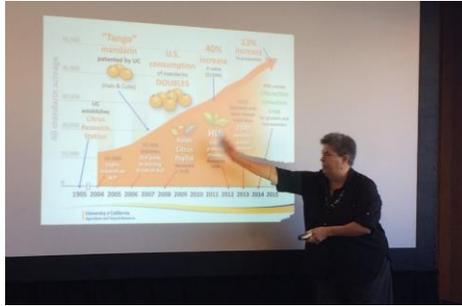


Vanessa Jackson began the meeting by showing two videos to get the participants thinking about the future of the Land-Grant Universities. Stephen Gavazzi, who was scheduled to speak had a family emergency and could not attend. Both videos were interviews with the authors of the book, “Land-Grant University of the Future” by Stephen Gavazzi and Gordon Gee.

The land-grant institutions were grounded in the spirit of helping the average person sustain a living by educating him or her in technical curricula, as well as with professional and vocational training. Our world and social ecological systems continue to change. With all the changes in the world, land-grant institutions should focus on reinvigorating their educational foundation by re-affirming their mission in teaching, research and outreach (extension). The question is: what should the future land-grant mission be, and how are we to reach the students of the future? There were four speakers to help the participants think about this question.



Mike Boehm, University of Nebraska Lincoln, spoke about how much the world is changing and how much agriculture is and needs to adjust. He talked about how rapidly agriculture is evolving. He then discussed the diversity of the United States and challenged the group to think about if we are keeping pace. He presented the statistics on educational attainment and spoke on how good jobs require college level talent. He shared how college students look very different today than in the past and asked the question “Are we engaging today’s learners?”



Glenda Humiston, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, (UCANR) presented on the research arm of the Land-grant. She asked the group to think about if we have the appropriate vision and mission to make a difference for our clientele? She revealed how the funds in California have decreased while demand has increased for UCANR service. She shared examples of how UCANR is working to leverage existing resources in new ways.

Dawn Mellion-Patin, Southern University Agriculture Research and Extension Center and Laura Perry Johnson, University of Georgia Extension gave background context about their prospective organizations. They talked about how they work to stay relevant. They shared what they do to reach an expanding audience while still serving the existing clientele. They challenged the group to think about their own institutions. They asked them to think about three questions; What do we start, stop and continue doing?



The group was asked to submit their thoughts after each session. The feedback was captured with a program that visually reported what was submitted.

All the speakers were asked to participate in the summary at the end to review what was submitted and share some final thoughts.

The workshop finished at 3:30 pm