

Presented by the
College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences

Tennessee State University Centennial Celebration



Monday, April 16

10:00 AM- 10:45 PM

AITC Building, Room 101

Faculty, Staff and Students welcome

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young

ACTING NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR

Keynote Speaker for the Centennial Celebration

Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Ph.D., is Acting Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). As part of the Research, Education and Extension mission area of USDA, NIFA awards grants to university researchers across the nation for a wide range of research that addresses the needs of farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers.

Prior to serving as NIFA's Acting Director, Dr. Jacobs-Young was the first Director of the Office of the Chief Scientist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In this role, Jacobs-Young worked with the scientific leadership from every agency in the department to ensure that the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity were integral to the department's research and were the bedrock of the scientific advice provided to the department and external stakeholders.

Jacobs-Young came to the Office of the Chief Scientist after having served as a senior policy analyst for agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. There, she supported the president's science adviser and others within the Executive Office of the President on a variety of agricultural scientific activities. She worked across the federal government to improve interagency cooperation and collaboration on high-priority scientific issues.

From 2002 to 2009, Jacobs-Young led competitive research programs as a national program leader in the USDA National Research Initiative, USDA's largest competitive program. She administered funding programs through grants given in the areas of bio-based products, including nonfood processing, biotechnology, metabolic engineering, bio-energy production and forest products research. Jacobs-Young was a member of the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington in Seattle from 1995 to 2002, where she was assistant professor of paper science and engineering. She was an active researcher and published in the area of biotechnology for the production of bio-based products. Jacobs-Young's corporate experience involves working with various corporations, including E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Kimberly-Clark Co., Federal Paper Board, Kraft General Foods and the Weyerhaeuser Co.

Jacobs-Young holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in wood and paper science and a B.S. in pulp and paper science and technology from N.C. State University. She also is a graduate of American University's program for executive leadership in public policy implementation.

For more information visit www.tnstate.edu.

