Dr. Matthew Fannin Assumes New RUPRI Leadership Role

RUPRI Enhances Analytic Capacity and Announces National Analytic Initiative

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COLUMBIA, MO. ---

The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) today announced the appointment of Dr. Matthew Fannin, as Associate Director, RUPRI Analytic and Academic Programs. He is currently Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, and Louisiana Center for Rural Initiatives. RUPRI is a national policy institute headquartered in the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. Dr. Fannin received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Louisiana State University, and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri.

“RUPRI is honored that Matt Fannin has accepted this leadership position,” Charles W. Fluharty, RUPRI President, said, “which will significantly enhance our capacity in regional economic analysis, as we build a national collaboration to support this programming, under a new Cooperative Agreement with the Office of the Chief Economist, USDA.”

Dr. Fannin will provide additional leadership to RUPRI’s Analytic and Academic Programs, directed by Dr. Tom Johnson, Frank Miller Professor of Agricultural Economics, and Professor,
Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri, as a panel of economists from across the nation collaborate in this effort. Over the past two decades, this network has built programs of national and international significance, including the creation of the Community Policy Analysis Network (CPAN) and the International Comparative Rural Policies Studies program (ICRPS).

“Over the last decade, Dr. Fannin has established a strong record of applied policy research and analysis at local, state and national levels,” said Tom Johnson. “He is a respected scholar in regional and policy economics. We are very pleased that he has agreed to lend his considerable talents to RUPRI’s efforts to add more rigor to regional and rural policy analysis.”

Dr. Fannin’s has a wide research background including work on intellectual property in rural regions and impacts of the Critical Access Hospital program on efficient delivery of health care in rural areas. His current research focuses on the role of public sector investments in rural wealth creation and disaster resiliency. His research has been funded by numerous federal agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Interior and Commerce.

*Formed in 1990 at the request of members of the Senate Agriculture Committee with foundational support from Iowa State University, University of Nebraska and the University of Missouri, RUPRI is now an institution of international significance with a presence throughout the country. RUPRI’s mission is to provide objective analysis and facilitate public dialogue on the rural impacts of public policies and programs.*