

Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

Joan Fulton



Joan Fulton joined Purdue's faculty in July 1997. Fulton's program included undergraduate and graduate teaching, Extension, and Research both domestically and internationally, embracing the Land Grant model. Her program focused on the areas of agribusiness, soybeans, small business development, cowpeas in West Africa, and women entrepreneurship in West Africa. Joan Fulton played key leadership roles around Purdue.

As Chairperson of the College of Agriculture Curriculum and Student Relations Committee (1999-2001) Fulton led a major revision of the core curriculum for the College. Two significant changes in the core curriculum included: expanding international understanding and a required capstone experience, changes that remain in effect today.

Fulton was Co-Chair of Purdue New Ventures Team and Co-Director/Director Agricultural Innovation and Commercialization Center (AICC) from 2002 - 2007. This award-winning program involved the development and delivery of workshops and materials for new and small business development in Indiana and beyond.

Fulton was the inaugural director of PICS (Purdue Improved Cowpea Storage). Funded with an \$11.4M grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this multidisciplinary program helped small-holder farmers in West Africa effectively store their cowpeas to receive higher prices later in the year and increase income. Fulton was one of the lead faculty members who wrote the grant proposal and secured the project. She directed the project for the first 18 months. During that time the first-year pilot activities (train the trainer activities, village demonstrations, open the bag demonstrations, monitoring and evaluation) were conducted in Niger and Burkina Faso; manufacturing and distribution of PICS bags; training manuals were developed (in both French and English) and the second-year activities were rolled out in Niger, Burkina Faso and Nigeria.

Fulton was elected by the Purdue University Senate as Vice-Chairperson from 2009-2010 and Chairperson from 2010-2011. In an environment of restructuring and cost-cutting Fulton successfully sought and established a collaborative environment between the University administration and the faculty leaders on the Senate. Fulton used the regular Senate Chair report to the Board of Trustees to achieve further collaboration and at the end of her term she was asked by the Board to serve on the search committee for the next Purdue President.

Fulton was passionate about working to advance the climate at Purdue to promote diversity and inclusion. She formally and informally mentored faculty and students, especially those from marginalized populations, worked with the Purdue ADVANCE program and extended that passion into Purdue leadership. As Provost Fellow for Diversity and Inclusion Fulton was part of Purdue's Diversity Leadership Team from 2016-2018.

As Associate Department Head, (2010-2020) Fulton supported the department in numerous ways, but awards were her true passion. She shepherded (writing, editing, working with nominees) all nominations of awards for the department, with much success and often envy from other departments.

Fulton was recognized with numerous awards from Purdue including: Butler Leadership in Action Award, College of Agriculture Dean's Team Award (twice), CIC Academic Leadership Program Fellow, University Corps of Engagement Award for PICS, PUCSA Early and Mid-Career and Team awards, Extension Specialist Award, and Seed for Success Award (twice). She received the AAEA Distinguished Extension/Outreach Award for greater than 10 years' experience and the AAEA Distinguished Extension/Outreach Group Award. Her paper with Miriam Otoo on women entrepreneurs selling street food in Niger received the Best Paper form the Journal of African Business.