

President-Elect
Vincent Amanor-Boadu, Assistant Professor, Kansas State University



I graduated from the University of Guelph in 1992 and was recruited by the newly-formed George Morris Center as a Research Leader. After two years in that position, I was promoted to Director of Research, taking responsibility of working closely with industry to identify research issues to enhance the competitiveness of Canada's agri-food industries and securing the resources to conduct such research. I left the George Morris Center in 2000 to participate in the formation of Venturelabour.com and AgriFood Innovations, two technology companies that were riding the opportunity gaps that the internet revolution was creating. I joined Kansas State University in 2002 and have been driving our value-added agricultural business development and entrepreneurship programs. I am currently teaching a university-wide venture creation and management course that attracts students from all six colleges and the two campuses of K-State.

I sit on the Board of Farms.com, Inc. and Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL), Inc. I also serve on the advisory of the Catholic Institute of Business and Technology in Ghana as well as on the international editorial advisory of the Journal of Chain and Network Science. My outreach program involves working with communities and entrepreneurs in their wealth creation activities as well as firms in their search for sustained competitiveness.

Vincent Amanor-Boadu
Vision Statement for the AEM Section

Communication is at the top or near the top of every organization I have worked with in strategy development. My wife, who is a marriage and family therapist, tells me that communication is the principal issue identified by most couples identify coming into therapy. AEM tackled the issue of communication from the very beginning with Lisa House's administration which introduced our Newsletter. We need to leverage the tools of Web 2.0 to transform the one-way sequential communication process of the Newsletter into a multi-way synchronous and real-time communication among our members. This, I believe, will create enhanced opportunities for our members in research, teaching and outreach collaboration to advance their careers even as we improve AEM's contribution to the profession.

Our Section's distinguishing characteristic is our closer relationship with industry. Yet, as recognized by Arlo Biere's administration, membership of practitioners in our Section is low. To address this, we need to provide a stronger value proposition to make us attractive to

practitioners. One way of doing this is providing them resources and partnership opportunities that will be mutually beneficial. One approach is to formalize Executive Partnerships in our teaching, outreach and research activities and share the results with both practitioner and academic members to use in their own activities. This expands and consolidates our network and enhances the Section's inherent value. The tangible product from Executive Partnerships is a library of multimedia content developed by members for members to use in their teaching, research and outreach activities. This library is similar to Cornell's e-clips and Stanford's SVTP. However, unlike these single-organization efforts, the initiative we propose here is distributed and developed as a networked effort of our practitioner and academic membership, making it more cost efficient and effective, and accelerating our ability to build a database of topics that is of interest to our members in their teaching, research and outreach efforts. The database may be hosted by AAEA or a sponsoring organization.

I salute AEM's current and past leadership and present this platform only to pay tribute to them and advance the yeoman work they have done in building a strong and well-managed organization. I believe my platform will continue to advance the organization towards its mission of promoting quality, innovation, and experiential foundations of agribusiness and supply chain scholarship in learning, discovery, and engagement.