I am a Professor in the School of Public Policy at UC Riverside where I teach economics and policy and work on interdisciplinary citrus projects. Previous positions held at Iowa State University were the Cargill Chair in Energy Economics and Director of the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development. My academic career began in Extension at NC State. I received my PhD from UC Berkeley and MS and BS degrees from UC Davis. Service to AAEA includes being a Board member from 2011 to 2014 and member and past chair of the Bruce Gardner award committee. AAEA awards include Fellow, Quality of Research Discovery, Bruce Gardner Award, Extension Group, and honorable mentions for Dissertation and Quality of Communication. Other awards include Outstanding JARE article, USDA Secretary of Agriculture award, and AARES Quality of Communication. I have published mainly on farm management economics, agriculture and the environment, biofuels, and crop insurance.

1. What is the biggest concern/problem facing AAEA?

Past and current leadership working with EDI have AAEA in a good position. A finalized strategic plan will provide a shared summary of how AAEA brings value to members. I was pleased to see high priority being given to the mentoring programs that provide multiple benefits to mentees and mentors and have the potential to strengthen links across members at different career stages. Moving to a teaching position in an interdisciplinary School of Public Policy at a majority-minority public institution has increased my appreciation of the need for AAEA to continue its efforts to establish links to related applied economics fields and to give emphasis to dimensions of core AAEA interests that will become more important in the future, such as teaching and external communication. Staying relevant to new and existing members as new academic, private sector and government career opportunities open up is critical to AAEA's future. The decentralization of AAEA through its encouragement of Sections was a brilliant idea that facilitates the type of flexibility that AAEA needs to continue to serve its members. We need to make sure that this aspect of AAEA is as well-managed and flexible as it needs to be to position AAEA for continue relevance.

2. What actions would you initiate to improve the situation described in your response to the previous question?

AAEA sections provides members a vehicle to create new areas of emphasis and connection. I want to make sure that Section members continue to be well-served by AAEA and that they have the flexibility they need to maintain and enhance AAEA vitality. I will reach out to Section leadership, board members, and interested others to discuss the current state of affairs of Sections and to garner new ideas about how we can better use Sections to support new and growing areas of interest to members.

3. At the end of your three-year term, what changes/new initiatives would you have helped create?

The overall objective I have for three years in leadership would be to ensure that AAEA is in the best possible structural position to enable changes in membership interests to be reflected in the programs and priorities of AAEA. The current structure of AAEA uses Sections as the primary vehicle to facilitate
more tailored interests of members. I would look to make any changes to how sections are managed, how they fit in at AAEA meetings, and the process by which Sections are formed, to ensure that AAEA continues to be poised for future health, relevance, and vitality.