



We have three, time-sensitive items that we bring to your attention. We seek your input on examples of NIFA projects that had impact or have promise and comments that you might have on the National Academies' Blue Ribbon Panel on collaboration in the Land-grant system. Early bird registration for the Joint Summer Session Meeting expires on May 4. Check out the first three action items.

"Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known." – Carl Sagan (1997) in *Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space*, Ballantine Books, New York, NY.

Action items:

- The Executive Directors are collecting input on the Farm Bill. We've been asked for examples of "a USDA funded project with an impactful result" and the "top example of an ongoing project where you see promising results." If you have brief descriptions of projects that you'd like to share, [we're](#) listening!
- We've been invited to comment on the topic of "collaboration in the land-grant system." As you know, the USDA asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to appoint a **Blue-Ribbon Panel** to examine how collaboration among land-grant institutions can be more impactful in addressing the nation's needs for a successful, sustainable food and agricultural system, and to recommend ways those institutions can better capture and share the collective outcomes of their collaborations. The Panel has posted online, 17 preliminary observations about the current state of collaboration, and is seeking feedback from stakeholders that it will use to inform the planning of a virtual workshop, and ultimately, a consensus report to USDA and Congress. You can find the reference document containing the preliminary observations and the online comment form here: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/land-grant-collaboration/form/>. You will also find on that page a link to the project website with more information about the Panel and a place to subscribe to project updates. Please send comments by Friday, May 6, 2022. We also anticipate sending in comments from NERA on behalf of the region. If you'd like to share your individual comments with us, please send those to [Rick](#).
- Please register for the 2022 Northeast Joint Summer Session Meeting. Here are links to the [registration](#) and [meeting](#) websites. Early bird registration is currently \$515 and is good through May 4. After May 4, registration increases to \$620. You will see on the meeting website a link to the [meeting hotel](#) (the Portland Regency Spa and Hotel). The hotel requires meeting attendees to reserve rooms by phone, (207) 774-4200 (refer to Northeast Joint Summer Session or University of Maine group) to secure the room rate of \$199/night. As we've shared previously, the theme for the meeting is "Innovation".
- Alexis Nazario-Negron at NIFA is re-constituting the NIFA Reporting System working group to broaden input and participation. She is seeking 3 representatives from NERA and 3 from NEED. This could be a director, associate director, or business manager; preferably someone that has experience with grants

reporting. If you or any of your colleagues might be a good candidate, please contact [Rick](#). Many thanks to Rubie Mize (University of Maryland) and John Dieffenbacher-Krall (University of Maine) for initially representing the Northeast as the NIFA Reporting System was being developed: well done!

- We are again seeking pictures that typify research activities on your campus. We'll run those on the scrolling banner on the NERA website. Please send your photos to [David](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- Many thanks to those of you that cast a ballot supporting designation of the Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) as a standing committee of the BAA. (The initiative passed by a wide margin and met the required supermajority of all voting members.) We believe this change will go a long way in helping the system better tell our story.
- Chris Hamilton from the North Central region is hosting a NIMSS Virtual Training on Wednesday, May 25 at 2 pm ET. The session is open to all regions and will provide an overview of NIMSS, including a demonstration of functions. That will be followed by an open Q&A to address specific needs of the audience. If you or your staff are interested in joining, please contact [Rick](#) and he'll send a link to the Zoom meeting.
- *This is bubbling up from the Southern Region:* The USDA/AMS is now requiring all research contracts issued by federal marketing organizations and Research and Promotion Programs to be approved by AMS. Additionally, they are insisting that any IP developed by the institution under the projects be either solely owned by the commodity group/board or jointly owned by the institution and the commodity board, regardless of whether the commodity group/board had any inventorship in the IP. This does not fit within Bayh-Dole provisions, but USDA/AMS has stated that Bayh-Dole does not apply since these are not federally funded projects but rather projects funded by producer funds generated through these marketing orders. Is this causing indigestion with any of the NERA membership?

Informational items:

- The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Maryland seeks an individual to serve as [Assistant Research Professor and Director](#) of its Central Maryland, Lower Eastern Shore and Western Maryland Research and Education Centers. The college is also seeking applicants for a number of positions which are listed on the [NERA website](#).
- The Iowa State University College of Design and ISU Extension and Outreach invite applicants for the position of [Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach and ISU Extension Program Director for Community and Economic Development](#) at the rank of Associate or Full Professor with tenure.
- The ARS is seeking a [Supervisory Research Biologist/Research Leader](#) for the Pacific Shellfish Research Project in Newport, OR.
- NIFA has issued a number of RFPs including solicitations for the [Equipment Grant Program](#) (EGP) and [Higher Education Challenge Grants Program](#) (HEC). The deadline for both opportunities is June 15, 2022.
- The National Academies are hosting a series of conversations about climate including one on [Adaptations by Agriculture](#) on May 19, 3-4 ET. [Registration](#) is required.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) issued has issued an [RFP for the Convergence Accelerator Program](#). This program addresses national-scale societal challenges through use-inspired convergence research. Using a convergence approach and innovation processes like human-centered design, user discovery, and team science and integration of multidisciplinary research, the Convergence Accelerator program seeks to transition basic research and discovery into practice — to solve high-impact societal

challenges aligned with specific research themes (tracks). This year one of the research tracks is [Food and Nutrition Security](#).



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