



Over the next two weeks, Rick will be on the road, away from the office and checking email infrequently. Dave will be providing coverage if you need assistance.

With the passing of Colin Powell, the first African American to chair the Joint Chiefs of Staff and serve as Secretary of State, we share a personal favorite quote.

“There is no end to the good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.” – Colin Powell in *My American Journey* (1995), Random House Publishing Group, New York, NY.

Action items:

- We’re planning on holding a spring 2022, face-to-face meeting as we had done pre-COVID. As such, we will be polling the region tomorrow to seek your input on meeting dates and places. Please be on the lookout for the survey, we value your input.
- A draft of the [Multistate Activities Committee Report](#) (October 15, 2021) is posted on the NERA website. Check it out.
- *All things NIMSS*: David and I will be presenting a NIMSS session tomorrow at the virtual NEMO meeting. If you have new business officers or business officers who might need a NIMSS refresher, encourage them to join.
- *More NIMSS stuff*: Chris Hamilton has asked all of us for input on any glitches that we encounter in NIMSS. As a heads up, Clemson University (the administrative host of NIMSS) has patched NIMSS and removed NIFA as the final approver of multistate research projects. (As we’ve discussed, the authority for approval of multistate research projects now resides in the region.) As users, we ask for your help in identifying NIMSS glitches that might have resulted from the new patch. If you encounter something weird in NIMSS, please let [Dave](#) know.
- We appreciate that you’ve seen a lot of activity from the APLU, Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) and the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) seeking your support to retain some \$3.65 billion currently included in the House reconciliation bill (part of Build Back Better) to address updating our research facilities. While the amount that the “system” originally requested (\$11.5 billion) to address deferred maintenance has shrunk, securing \$3.65 billion would open a new funding portal through the Research Facilities Act. The system is seeking your support, support of your government affairs experts, your stakeholders, and your congressional delegations.

Reminders/Updates:

- Be on the lookout for a post ESS meeting evaluation which we expect to be sent out this week. Please

respond.

- *Second time:* The [minutes of the NERA business meeting](#) held on September 28th are posted on the NERA website, check them out.
- *Second time:* If you attended the NERA meeting, we're interested in hearing your thoughts. What did you like or dislike? [Do you have any suggestions](#) to improve or enhance our virtual, hybrid and/or face-to-face meetings?

Informational items:

- The College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, University of New Hampshire, is recruiting two post-doctoral scholars as part of the [UNH Post-Doctoral Diversity and Innovation Scholars program](#). As Anton Bekkerman shares "We're doing our best to intentionally expand our recruiting networks, and working more with 1890 partners is definitely a big goal in our college and experiment station." The two opportunities include a [post-doctoral scholar in ecology](#) and a [postdoctoral scholar in social science and climate change](#).
- Long-time NERA colleague, Sabine O'Hara ([University of the District of Columbia CAUSES](#)), is seeking participation of your students in a [global greenhouse challenge](#), a collaboration between [Wageningen University and Research](#) (WUR) and UDC CAUSES. The effort is looking for interdisciplinary teams of students to design a greenhouse and urban farm for the Urban Food Hubs location in Ward 7 in Washington DC. As Sabine shared, "We expect teams from across the US and around the world. This is the 3rd Global Greenhouse Challenge WUR is organizing and the first in the United States." The event kicks off on November 3, [registration](#) to the opening webinar is required. Last, [Sabine](#) is available to answer questions.
- Cornell AgriTech is seeking applicants for a Managing Director of Agricultural Research Operations position. [Click here to view the job description](#).
- The University of Maryland is seeking applicants for an Extension Program Assistant, Agricultural and Food Systems position in Baltimore City. [Click here to view the position description](#).



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Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

www.nerasaes.org

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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