



We're a week away from the ESS/CES-NEDA meeting and the attendant [NERA Business Meeting](#). We're looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore.

“The antidote to diminishing returns of the status quo is to *think differently*.” – Aaron Dignan (2019) in *Brave New Work: Are You Ready to Reinvent Your Organization?*, Portfolio/Penguin, New York, NY.

Action items:

- From the “best wishes, sorry to see you go” department, we extend our best to NERA chair, Eric Wommack. Eric stepped down as the NERA chair and Deputy Dean and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education at the University of Delaware to take on new responsibilities in Delaware's Research Office as the Senior Associate Vice President for Research. Gone but not forgotten... Puneet Srivastava, per our Rules of Operation, will serve as the interim NERA Chair and run the NERA Business Meeting in Baltimore.
- The agenda and supplementary materials for the [NERA Business Meeting](#) are now posted. The supplementary materials for the NERA meeting include the [MAC Report](#), the [revised “Northeastern Supplement to the Guidelines for Multistate Research Activities”](#) (Guidelines), an [explanation of the Guidelines revisions](#), a [red-line version of the Guidelines](#), and a [Multistate Activity Workflow Timeline](#).
- During the first hour and a half of the NERA business meeting, we'll be collaborating with NEED to work on the “Northeast Agenda”. We'll be assisted by a facilitator, Erica Mirich, from PIVOT Creative and Consulting. (Erica is also assisting ESCOP on rebranding.) Here's a video link [introducing you to Erica](#). Tomorrow, we will be sending a short “Northeast Agenda Survey”. We ask that you complete the survey by the close of business on Friday.

Reminders/Updates:

- In preparation for the ESS meeting, would you please review the [note](#) that we forwarded to you from Bret Hess that outlines the concepts for rebranding ESCOP. (We also sent a link to a [video](#) that explains the background to the concept.) You'll have an opportunity at the ESS Business Meeting to select which branding option you prefer and whether the Section should pursue trademarking the concept.
- During the ESS meeting we will discuss [AG-NGINE](#), a proposal to create an agriculture national graduate student name exchange. The link provides the background on the concept.

Informational items:

- Mississippi State University is seeking a [Head of the Department of Animal and Dairy Science](#).
- We have issued the [FY 2023 request for funding support](#) for grant applications (up to \$10,000 per application). Please encourage your faculty to take advantage of this opportunity. As a reminder, we have two ways to fund a proposal. NERA can transfer the award amount to your institution (for some

institutions this poses challenges) or you can support the proposal with your institutional funds, and we'll reduce your following years assessment by a like sum.

- *Second time:* We've made some changes on the NERA website that will interest you. We've opened a [NEED/NERA Civil Rights Review Materials](#) page. Second, check a new page titled [NERA Assessments and Budget](#). This provides an explanation for how assessments are calculated and what the NERA budget pays for.



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