



Dave and I extend these gifts of the holiday season: happiness, hope, prosperity, friendship, goodwill, joy, harmony, and peace. Please use these and share them liberally.

As a heads up, your NERA office will be closed from December 23-January 2 as David and I take some time off to gather with family and friends.

He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle:  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight-  
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

- Anonymous (1823), *Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas*, [The Troy Sentinel-December 23, 1823](#), page 3. Clement C. Moore claimed authorship in 1837 and the well-known, American poem was later published as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

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### Action items:

- *Holiday reading:* the [notes for the ESCOP meeting held on December 7](#) are posted on the ESCOP website and the [minutes from the NERA December 15 meeting](#) are posted on the NERA website. Check both of them out.
- We're making progress on the NE Agenda. The ad hoc steering group met on December 16 to discuss "strategic direction". Stay tuned for additional details.
- As discussed during the quarterly NERA teleconference, we have a number of committee seats and Administrative Adviser slots open. The [list of openings](#) is posted on the NERA website. We'll be reaching out to folks about the open slots after the beginning of the new year.

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### Reminders/Updates:

- Take time to rest and recharge with family and friends!

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### Informational items:

- *Second time:* We've heard from the North Central region that the guidance coming from NIFA about financial reporting of competitive grants programs has been confusing and inconsistent. In short, the issue revolves around the Terms and Conditions of Competitive Grants which state that a financial report is due on February 1, 2023. NIFA is sending notices that indicate that financial reports are due within 120 days after the project end date. [We're interested in hearing](#) if this is causing indigestion among your business officers.
- *Last time:* The University of Florida is hosting the **Winter 2023 Meeting of the Research Center Administrators Society (RCAS)** on February 5-8, 2023, in Brandon, FL. To register, check the [RCAS](#) webpage. As a heads up, RCAS is focused on issues and challenges related to research centers, research, and education centers (RECs), across the Land-grant system.



Merry and bright, from my house to yours! – All the best!

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