

# NERA: The Value Proposition

What does NERA do?

We serve as **administrators** for the region.

- Manage the portfolio of NE multistate activities and projects.
- Provide regional oversight of the National Information Management and Support System ([NIMSS](#)) and Multistate Research Fund (annual regional allocation ~\$11 million and matched 1:1 with non-Federal funds).

We are an **information commons**, serving as both **aggregators** and **disseminators**.

- We host best practice sessions, director orientations, directed trainings, distributing white papers, posting reports and hosting a biweekly newsletter.
- We are relentless networkers, connecting directors with institutional business officers, communicators, NGOs, NIFA personnel, influencers, and policy makers.

We serve as a regional **“Co-Laboratory”**.

- Engage regional stations in multistate efforts leveraging resources across state lines.
- We extend NERA Planning Grants to assist faculty submit competitive, externally funded grants.
- Collaborate with our regional counterpart in Extension, NEED (Association of Northeast Extension Directors) on director-driven initiatives (e.g., Ecosystem Services Landscape Assessment, Northeast Agenda, Urban Agriculture Multistate Research).
- We provide a safe space, a non-judgement zone, for holding conversations on the challenges faced by deans and directors (e.g., strained resources, difficult personnel, accountability pressure, technology and educational delivery, etc.)

We **represent** the region.

- We are the face and voice of the region on both regional and national levels, advancing the priorities and interests of the Northeast.
- We serve in leadership positions in regional organizations (e.g., chairman of the Board of Directors for the Northeast Aquaculture Center and the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development).
- We assist our directors that take on national leadership positions.
- We are part of a nation-wide network of allied regional associations (agricultural research and Cooperative Extension).
- We are part of national organization, agInnovation, which represents the state agricultural experiment stations at 1862 institutions and agricultural research at 1890 Land-grant institutions.