



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

We're in summer mode which translates to meetings: Joint Summer Session, Association for Communications Excellence, Joint COPS, and New Administrators Orientation. We'd share that the work of the Northeast Communicators is evolving nicely, our communicators help us tell our story better!

Below you'll find the stuff you need to know.

"Traditionally, the emphasis on the "public good" of higher education has been rooted in the idea that land-grant universities are the "social conscience" of American society and its educational system. Such sentiment has been based on the historical understanding that, until the Morrill Act was passed in 1862, a college degree was attainable only by wealthy, white, urban males. The development of the land-grant institutions, in contrast, created a "moral force" that opened the doors to all comers, with a basis on ability and effort instead of affluence and social networks."

-Stephen M. Gavazzi and E. Gordon Gee (2018) in *Land-grant Universities for the Future: Higher Education for the Public Good*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.

Action items:

- *Hold the date:* We've scheduled a **virtual NERA Business meeting on August 10 at 8:30 AM**. The primary item on the agenda is a discussion of the NERA budget. The good news is that we have a healthy carry forward per the direction of the Association and we don't expect any changes in fiscal year 2024 assessments. We'll forward connection information and a detailed agenda by email at the end of July.
- During the Joint Summer Session, we unveiled the Northeast Agenda. We are now seeking your input on the [Executive Summary](#) and [Northeast Agenda Full Report](#). We are seeking your comments, reflections, and edits by July 10. Please forward those to [Rick](#).
- The [minutes for the NERA Business Meeting](#) held in Annapolis on June 7 are posted on the NERA website. Please check those out. If you have corrections please [share them with us](#). We've also posted the presentations from the Northeast Joint Summer Session on the [NERA website](#).
- During the NERA Business Meeting, we had a discussion with Erica Mirich, the consultant that helped to develop the re-branding of the Experiment Station Section to agInnovation. (See the first Reminder/Update.) You'll see in the [minutes of June 7](#), that the NERA directors asked Rick to explore a name change for our organization: from NERA to agInnovation/Northeast. More to come!

Reminders/Updates:

- The new website for [agInnovation](#) (formerly called the Experiment Station Section) is up and running. Check it out, it's who we are now.
- One of the items that will be discussed at the agInnovation Executive Committee (also known as ESCOP) meeting at Joint COPS is a [report from an ad-hoc committee](#) recommending the formation of an agInnovation 501(c)3 foundation. Rick served on the ad hoc committee and supports the formation of the new organization.

Informational items:

- The 2023 Joint COPS Summer Meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2023 - July 20, 2023, at the Loew's Kansas City Hotel, Kansas City, MO. As a heads up, the [New Administrator's Orientation](#) is being held concurrently with Joint COPS. Today is the last day to take advantage of the [group room rate](#) (\$219 + tax).
- *Hold the date:* The annual meeting of agInnovation (formerly known as the Experiment Station Section) is scheduled for September 24-26 in Grand Rapids, MI. The theme for the meeting is **Catalyzing Solutions to Climate Change Impacts on Food Security through Partnerships**.
- *Continuing:* The National Science Foundation (NSF) requests input to inform the development of a roadmap for its newly established Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate, in accordance with the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. For more information, check the Federal Register "[Request for Information on Developing a Roadmap for the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships](#)." Comments are due on July 27, 2023.
- The Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research is seeking applicants for a Scientific Program Director to lead the Next Generation Crops challenge area. Details on the position can be found on the [FFAR website](#).



"Summer Clouds"; Peckham Farm on the campus of the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI (June 18, 2023).



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NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

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