



The academic calendar is alive and well; it's always good to have students back on campus and in our labs.

We share three bullets below that we call "[Action Items](#)". The actions that we are seeking are your consideration and thought. The consideration item: we're planning to meet face-to-face in Washington, DC in March. Please consider joining us! We believe that we are better together. The two thought items include the BAA's expected ask for infrastructure and financial reporting dates for competitive grants awarded by NIFA.

It finally feels like winter, it's snowing in Rhode Island.

"Do research. Feed your talent. Research not only wins the war on cliché, it's the key to victory over fear and it's cousin, depression."

– Robert McKee (2010) in *Story: Style, Structure, Substance, and the Principles of Screenwriting*, HarperCollins e-books, New York, NY.

Action items:

- Save the date: NERA will be meeting face-to-face in Washington, DC on March 15-16, immediately after CARET/AHS at the APLU (1220 L Street NW) and using a room block at a hotel close to the APLU. We are currently in negotiations with prospective hotels. Note that we will not have a room block in the hotel in which the CARET/AHS meeting will be held (i.e., Omni Shoreham Hotel). We're anticipating an afternoon start time on March 15. More to come!
- While no immediate action is required on your part, we'd share that the BAA's Farm Bill Committee (also known as the Committee on Legislation and Policy or CLP) is recommending support for an ask of \$8 billion in mandatory funding. Of that, the CLP is suggesting designating \$5 billion to research infrastructure at \$1 billion per year for five years. The CLP has drafted a memo to the Policy Board of Directors reflecting this recommendation. We appreciate the fluid nature of legislation and will keep you posted on infrastructure developments. If you have any thoughts that you'd like for us to share with the CLP, [please send those](#) along.
- As we noted in our previous two newsletters, directors across the country had seen inconsistencies between NIFA notifications and Terms and Conditions for Competitive Grants on due dates for "end of project financial reports". I'm pleased to share that the Director of Awards Management in the Office of Grants and Financial Management is working with Planning, Accountability and Reporting to develop a

solution to the conflicting notices. We anxiously await the fix. We still [want to hear](#) of any problems that your business offices might be encountering on conflicting notices.

Reminders/Updates:

- Hold the date: the NEED/NERA Meeting will be held in Annapolis, Maryland, June 5-7, 2023.
- We have a number of committee seats and Administrative Advisor slots open. The [list of openings](#) is posted on the NERA website.
- For all of our NERA Administrative Advisors, the [request for nominations](#) for Excellence in Multistate Research is posted on the [ESCOP website](#). Please consider nominating your project!

Informational items:

- Administrivia: The NSF has made enhancements to the biosketch and current and pending forms (typically the last forms completed prior to sending a proposal over to sponsored projects). The NSF in conjunction did a webinar on the revised formats. Check out (or share) the webinar at: <https://nspolicyoutreach.com/>.
- Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is seeking applicants for the position of Associate Dean and Director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES). VAES is seeking an energetic leader, strategic thinker, relationship builder, and strong communicator who will continue to strengthen the role of the experiment station and the college throughout the university and the communities it serves. For additional details and to apply, visit <https://www.cals.vt.edu/about/administration/vaes-director-search.html>.



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