



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

Next week, Dave and I will be at the CARET/AHS meeting carrying the torch for NERA and tending to our national responsibilities associated with ESCOP, the Diversity Catalyst Committee, and the Communications and Marketing Committee. If there are any NE items or issues that you seek for us to carry forward with ESCOP or the APLU, please apprise. We look forward to seeing some of you in DC!

“Without Truth, there cannot be Justice, and the insidious vapor of bigotry will continue to pervade our monochromatic workplaces and schools and infect public discourse too often laced with hate. Yes, change will require resources and resolve, but no amount of money, no degree of effort will succeed alongside a willful negation of our shared humanity.” –Pamela Newkirk, 2019, in *Diversity, Inc.*, Bold Type Books, New York.

Action items:

- Hold the dates and mark your calendar: The NEED/NERA Summer meeting will be held in Portland, Maine on June 7-9, 2020. The theme for the meeting is “Innovation.” Stay tuned for details.
- In anticipation of the CARET/AHS meeting, the BAA Policy Board of Directors has issued the [APLU one-pager](#) that describes the LGU system’s appropriations ask. Cornerstone sent an email seeking your assistance in making our budget requests heard.
- On Thursday, February 20, 2020, NIFA posted additional information dedicated to [Industrial Hemp FAQs](#). You’ll note a frequently cited caveat “as long as both the university personnel and the hemp researchers or producers are complying with state laws and legally cultivating hemp under the auspices of the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills.” Knowing your state laws is essential. In the FAQs, NIFA answered questions that NERA had posed including:
 - Can LGUs provide Extension advice to hemp growers? (Yes, see the caveat above.)
 - Can we accept hemp samples at our plant-disease diagnostic and pesticide residue analyses clinics? (Yes, see caveat above.)
 - There is a current line of research into what causes hemp to exceed the 0.3% THC threshold, with the research objective of containing the THC level below the threshold. Would this work fall into the category that NIFA could fund? (Yes, For NIFA to fund any research with a known likelihood that non-compliant plants would be involved, the institution would need to provide documentation that the research complies with state laws and follows required plans and procedures for ensuring effective disposal of non-compliant plants.)

Reminders/Updates:

- We're looking forward to seeing you in Philadelphia. We sent each station a copy of Pamela Newkirk's Diversity, Inc. If you didn't receive your copy, [please apprise](#). As a heads up and to reiterate from the last newsletter there is no registration for the NERA Spring Meeting.
- Kumar Venkitanarayanan sought information about NERA institutions that house food innovation/incubation centers. We've posted the list to the [NERA website](#). If you have additions that you'd like to make to the list, please apprise.
- A [revised agenda \(v3\) for the spring NERA meeting](#) in Philadelphia is posted. Check it out!

Informational items:

- If you will be attending the annual CARET/AHS meeting and have an interest in in-service training, please join the Diversity Catalyst Committee's session on Tuesday, March 3 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM dedicated to resolving conflict across cultural boundaries using the [Intercultural Conflict Style Inventory](#). I'm hosting the session (but not serving as facilitator.) If you'd like to attend, please [apprise](#).
- Second time: The University of Connecticut is hosting a leadership training opportunity for faculty and professional staff in research, teaching and Extension. The training will take place on May 19-21, 2020 on the UConn campus. UConn is holding five seats for NEED and/or NERA to send interested participants from other regional institutions. The cost of the training is \$1,200 per person and includes the training plus lunches and breaks each day. NERA institutions would be responsible for all travel and per diem for their participants. Contact [Mike O'Neill](#) for more information.
- Washington State University is seeking to fill three positions: [Horticulture/ Urban Agriculture Specialist \(Extension\)](#); [Department of Horticulture Chair](#); and [Assistant/Associate Professor Potato Physiology](#).
- The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is seeking to fill twelve new positions. To view the positions and their job announcements, visit <https://www.nerasaes.org/employment>.



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

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