



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

The fall semester is underway for all the NERA institutions and with that new issues arise. Please don't hesitate to bring those issues forward to NERA. We're all stronger and better assisting each other.

Please check out our only action item. To ensure a rich dialogue with Director Scott Angle during the Joint CES/ESS Meeting in Nashville, I'm seeking questions and topics that the Director should address.

In the fields of observation, chance favors only those minds that are prepared.
– Louis Pasteur, translated from a [lecture at the University of Lille](#), Douai, France, December 7, 1854.

Action items:

- NIFA director, Scott Angle, is slated to speak to the ESS/CES directors in Nashville. I'm collecting questions and topics that you'd like the Director to address. Please forward those to [me](#).

Reminders/Updates:

- A revised NERA [business meeting agenda](#) (v4) is posted for your consideration. Likewise, the [supplementary materials](#) for the business meeting are also posted ([Summer Business Meeting minutes](#), [NERA OED accomplishments](#), and NERA end of year budget [[NERA Lockbox](#)].)
- We shared this in the last newsletter and are seeking your input. The Communications and Marketing Committee is evolving under the leadership of chair, Steve Loring. As you recollect, the primary contractor for the system's communication and marketing project, kglobal, was terminated at the end of April. The CMC has suggested hiring a "strategist" to develop a marketing and communication plan for the LGU system. We've posted the [CMC's document](#) explaining the direction of the effort, the strategist position description, the scope of the strategist's work, and the budget for the effort. Last, this could be accomplished with the outstanding balance remaining from the former communications and marketing project. Do you support the new direction?

Informational items:

- APLU Vice President Doug Steele periodically issues an update called [FOCUS](#). If you do not currently receive *FOCUS* and wish to do so, [contact Eddie Gouge](#).

- The University of Maryland Extension is seeking a [FSNE Educator – Baltimore County](#).
- While the NSF Fall 2019 Grants Conference (November 18-19, 2019, Boston, MA) is sold out, a webcast will be live-streamed. To be notified about that opportunity, click [here](#).
- Last time: The [RFA for the Specialty Crops Research Initiative](#) has been issued. The closing date on the opportunity is October 12, 2019 and the initiative requires 1:1 Federal:non-Federal match.



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