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We note that 2020 will be a year of change. We look forward to the opportunities that change poses!

“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.” - Malala Yousafzai (author of *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*) in an [address to the United Nations Youth Assembly](#), July 13, 2013 (Malala’s 16th birthday.)

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### Action items:

- Please welcome [Dr. Puneet Srivastava](#) to NERA. Puneet is serving as the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland and the Associate Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.
- And say goodbye to [Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi](#). Adel is returning to the faculty at the University of Maryland, but will remain active in NERA as an Administrative Advisor to two multistate projects.
- Stacey Sterns (UConn) and Lori Wright (UNH) are working on planning an ACE professional development workshop for Northeast AES and CE communicators. Stacy and Lori believe that it would be helpful to have a regional workshop to share best communications strategies specifically for our unique environment of both small and large stations and CE units. They are aiming for a two-day workshop in mid- to late- April at UNH and are currently gauging interest in the workshop from the community of NE communicators. Would you please share this link to an [interest survey](#) with your communications staff and interested parties? Last, all communicators would be welcome, not just those that are ACE members.
- ESCOP’s Diversity Catalyst Committee has released [a call of nominations](#) for the National Experiment Station Diversity and Inclusion Award. Please consider nominating a deserving person, group or program from your station.
- Doug Steele sent you a [survey](#) asking for responses to “Reimagining NIFA” questions. I’d invite you to ring in again on the topic.

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### Reminders/Updates:

- The [FY 2020 NERA Funding Support for Grant Applications: Request for Proposals](#) is now open. This rolling opportunity supports costs associated with development, writing, and submission of grant proposals. Please share widely! Remember, team leaders that submit proposals will be submitting their proposal to their host AES director: that might be you.
  - The room block for the NERA Spring Meeting (March 23-25, 2020) is now open. Click [here](#) to reserve your room.
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### Informational items:

- NIFA will be presenting an [informational webinar](#) on the integration of the Plan of Work and REEPort on January 16, 2020 at 2:00 PM. The meeting number or access code is 964 098 658. To join by phone, use either (888) 844-9904 or (816) 423-4261, access code 272 062 0.



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

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