



We're pleased to note that David is back in the office with a repaired, and now recovering, Achilles tendon. Many thanks for sharing the get wells!

We've had a number of folks inquire about registration for the Spring meeting in Philadelphia. The good news is that there is no registration fee or need to register. We would like to know who is coming. Check out the first action item.

"Sister, when you get, give. When you learn, teach. These are lessons to live by..." – Maya Angelou reflecting on lessons learned from her grandmother, during an interview for "[Oprah's Master Class](#)" in January 2011.

### Action items:

- There is no registration for the NERA Spring Meeting in Philadelphia. However, we are interested in knowing who will be joining and to that point, do you plan to attend? Please share your intent with [Rick](#).
- 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](#).
- Kumar Venkitanarayanan is seeking information about NERA institutions that house food innovation/incubation centers. Kumar is aware of centers at Rutgers, Cornell, and the University of Rhode Island. If you're home to such a center would you please [forward a link to me](#)?

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### Reminders/Updates:

- Last Monday (February 3rd), I shared NERA's reflections on "[NIFA Reimagined](#)" with Scott Angle, Parag Chitnis, and Doug Steele. While Scott shared his appreciation for us providing feedback, we'll keep you posted on the prospects for long-term change.
- A [revised agenda](#) (v3) for the spring NERA meeting in Philadelphia is posted. Check it out! The room block for the NERA Spring Meeting (March 23-25, 2020) is now open. Click [here](#) to reserve your room. We are sending each director a copy of Pamela Newkirk's *Diversity, Inc*. We're using Newkirk's suggestions as a jumping off point to discuss our efforts to promote diversity and inclusion. Watch for the package in the mail.
- Second ask: Scott Angle and Lynn Khadiagala sent out emails sharing an update on changes to the Plan of Work, Annual Report and the OGFN Supplemental Forms. In short, NIFA is retiring the current POW system and using word-template for the Annual Report and an Excel spreadsheet for the OGFN reporting. In doing so, a number of "traditional" fields are being eliminated and the submission date for the

Annual Report has been pushed back to May 1, 2020. I've heard anecdotes of dissatisfaction with this approach and now seek NERA's reflections of submission of the Annual Report. Please send to [me](#) comments and suggestions on how to improve the process.

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***Informational items:***

- 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.
- The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES), of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) with partners USDA Northeast Climate Hub and American Forests are hosting a one-day workshop, Tree Canopy from Big Cities to Small Towns: A Pathway to Climate Resilience, March 10, 2020 on the UDC campus. The goal of the meeting is to share knowledge and resources to build climate resilience by managing urban tree canopies. For more information click [here](#).



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Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

[www.nerasaes.org](http://www.nerasaes.org)

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

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

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