



We've had several leadership changes in the region. On May 26th, Kumar Venkitanarayanan will assume his new roles as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut and the Associate Director of the Storrs Ag Experiment Station. Effective July 1st, Fred Servello will officially be named as Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture at the University of Maine and Director of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station. Congratulations to both Kumar and Fred!

The Joint NEED/NERA/AHS/CARET Meeting will open in three weeks. If you have not [registered](#), now is a good time to do that. The current meeting agenda and the NERA business meeting agenda are posted on the NERA website (see <http://www.nerasaes.org/agenda-minutes>.) Check those out.

Action items:

- The Joint Summer Meeting, like the spring meeting will be paperless. All supplemental materials for the meeting will be posted on the NERA website before the meeting. If you want printed materials, please print those at home. (Think sustainable...)

Reminders:

- The draft minutes of the spring meeting are posted on the NERA website (see <http://www.nerasaes.org/agenda-minutes>.) We'll approve those at the Joint Summer Meeting.

Informational items:

- NIFA is hosting a [Competitive Funding Opportunity Webinar](#) on May 25th (two sessions, 11-12 EDT and 1-2 EDT.) The agendas associated with both sessions are posted on the NIFA website. The primary goal of the two-session webinar is to assist the success of investigators applying to NIFA grant programs. This includes investigators from institutions that are under-represented in the NIFA grant portfolio.
- Check out the great work that [NCERA-101 \(Controlled Environment Technology\)](#) is doing to make controlled environment facilities more energy efficient, grow higher quality plants, engage students in STEM, support new businesses, conduct climate change research, and grow edible plants in space! NCERA-101 involves five NERA institutions: Connecticut-Storrs, Cornell, Maryland, Rutgers, and

West Virginia.

- We've had other leadership changes across the regions. On August 1st, Chris Daubert (Head, Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Science, NCSU) will officially take on the roles of Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri.
- The LSU Ag Center is searching for a Regional Director, Southwest Region (see http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/895599_a0ccbc7e0cf842f8b9614bd72374e947.pdf.)
- The University of Idaho seeks applicants for the position of Department Head of Animal and Veterinary Science (see <https://uidaho.peopleadmin.com/postings/17744>.)
- We created the following description of the Communications and Marketing Project for the ECOP Monday Minute Blog. We thought you'd be interested...
 - The Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC) oversees the Communications and Marketing Project (CMP), a coordinated and targeted educational effort to increase awareness of the value of Land-grant University agriculture related programs, Agricultural Experiment Stations (AES) and Cooperative Extension Services (CES). The audience includes state citizens, community leaders, and institutional allies, with connections to identified congressional decision makers. Two consulting firms, kglobal and Cornerstone Government Affairs, are contracted to identify key targets and develop strategies to focus communication and education efforts. kglobal then implements targeted strategies via traditional media, grassroots engagement, grass-tops advocacy, digital, and social media Agriculture Is America website (<http://agisamerica.org/>, Twitter, Facebook). In 2017, the CMP will engage in targeted educational endeavors to support the Board of Agriculture Assembly's priorities, including: the "One Ask" (\$200 million increase to NIFA priority areas: Smith-Lever, 1890's Extension, Hatch, Evans-Allen, McIntire-Stennis and AFRI), Water, Healthy Food Systems and Infrastructure). The newest addition to this effort will be video shorts supporting the One Ask. Stay tuned!



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

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