



This looks to be busy legislative season as the new administration comes into office and a thin Democratic majority presides over Congress. What's does that have to do with our Northeast Experiment Stations? That will determine funding directions in the upcoming four years. The Biden administration has an expansive legislative agenda on issues like climate change and the USDA will be a target agency to implement programming. Likewise, additional COVID relief is expected and infrastructure support could be tied to that relief. To the infrastructure point, be sure to join the webinar this afternoon. (Check the first action item bullet.)

In the meantime, I hope that you were able to re-energize during the holidays. It looks like 2021 is going to be an interesting ride!

“Buy the ticket, take the ride...” - Hunter S. Thompson, 1971, *in* Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Vintage Books, New York, NY.

Action items:

- The APLU is hosting a webinar today on *Agricultural Research Infrastructure Advocacy* at 4:00 PM EST. The webinar will provide an opportunity for directors to learn about materials to support advocacy that advances the \$11.5 billion request for research infrastructure support. [Registration](#) is required.

Reminders/Updates:

- Ali Mitchell and I will be providing the NSF with feedback on their Strategic Plan with a regional, integrated view on behalf of NEED and NERA. If you have specific thoughts or suggestions on items that should be included in the NSF's new strategic plan, we'd value hearing them. The comment period ends on January 21. We're asking for input by January 14.
- The [notes from the December 15 NERA teleconference](#) are now posted; check them out! If you haven't provided feedback to Anton on strategic communications, now is a good time to do that through his [Google doc](#).

Informational items:

- The National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure (NNCI) Coordinating Office has organized Research Communities to focus attention on NSF Big Ideas. The NNCI Research Community for Nanotechnology Convergence is hosting a half-day (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM EST) virtual workshop on March 9, 2021 dedicated to "[How can open-access university facilities best support food and nutrition security?](#)" [Registration](#) for the Nanotechnology for Food and Nutrition Security session is required.

- *Second time:* The BAA is partnering with the USDA-REE to offer a national webinar, **U.S. Agriculture Innovation Strategic Pre-View**, on January 12, 2021 from 12:00 - 1:30 PM EST. (This is a repeat of a webinar originally broadcast on January 7, 2021.) To join, please [register](#). (You'll also be able to register at the same time for the webinar in the next bullet, **NIFA Project Café Rollout Webinar**.)
- *Second time:* The BAA and NIFA are hosting the **NIFA Project Café Rollout Webinar** on January 13, 2021 from 4:00 - 5:00 PM EST. To join, please [register](#).
- *Second time:* The APLU is hosting a webinar on **Selecting and Engaging CARET Delegates for Effective Strategic Outcomes**. The webinar will be held at 3:00 - 4:30 PM EST on Thursday, January 14, 2021. Directors and CARET delegates are encouraged to attend. [Registration](#) is required.
- *Second time:* The APLU is sponsoring a virtual conference dedicated to **Broadband's Role in Rural Economic Development: Exploring the Intersection between Community and Agricultural Broadband Needs**. This event, scheduled for January 27, 2021, 2:00 - 5:00 PM EST is intended for researchers and extension professionals interested in contributing to a research and extension agenda in these areas. [RSVP to join](#).



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