



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

---

We're closing in on our [Spring meeting](#) (March 5-7) which we are holding in conjunction with the Joint CARET/AHS meeting in Arlington, VA.

---

### Action items:

- The Spring meeting agenda is posted on the NERA website (<http://www.nerasaes.org/spring2018>). Check it out!
- Do you have a "communications strategic plan"? If so, would you [please send a copy to me or Dave](#). We've had a NE station that is seeking information on that topic.
- The request for nominations for the National Experiment Station Section Diversity and Inclusion Award is posted on the ESCOP website ([click here to view](#)). This is a new award and recognizes individuals, teams or organizations that go beyond simply meeting EEO/AA program requirements. Please consider submitting a nomination.

---

### Reminders/Updates:

- As you recollect, for the first time our annual Spring meeting will be in conjunction with Joint CARET/AHS. The CARET/AHS registration covers the NERA annual spring meeting registration. The meeting website is open to register for CARET/AHS at <https://www.cvent.com/events/2018-joint-caret-ahs-meeting/registration-f45effbbc6e746bb8438d64c19f8927b.aspx?fqp=true>. Rooms at the Hilton can be reserved at [http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/D/DCANAHF-APL-20180303/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/D/DCANAHF-APL-20180303/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG).
- The Spring meeting has a reading assignment and a reflection opportunity. The reading assignment is to peruse Bruce Tulgan's Not Everyone Gets a Trophy (Revised and Updated How to Manage Millennials.) It's available on [Amazon \(\\$13.00 for Kindle edition, \\$15.30 for hardcover or \\$7.95 for paperback\)](#) and will be the backbone of a best practices conversation on "Managing millennials: new students, new staff, new faculty." Jan also asks that you reflect on how you use discretionary funding. We'll be doing a best practices session on using discretionary funding to support faculty and staff development. So, here are the points to ponder. The deployment of discretionary funds (any funds - state, federal, foundation or other that can be used for a purpose that you deem necessary) can be a powerful tool for assisting faculty and staff development. We ask that you consider the following discussion questions:
  - Do you have discretionary funds?
  - If you do have access to discretionary funds, what is the primary source of the funds?
  - Have you used those funds to assist faculty and staff development?
  - If yes, please provide examples of those best practices.
  - If no, what are the primary uses of your discretionary funds?
  - If you don't have access to discretionary funds, are there strategies that you might deploy to seek and secure those funds?
- At CARET/AHS, we seek your flexibility to work around visits to the Hill. As such, please keep Tuesday night (3/6) open for a NERA working dinner.

---

### Informational items:

- The Northeast Agricultural and Biological Engineering Conference (NABEC 2018) is being jointly hosted by West Virginia University, USDA and NRCS on July 15-18, 2018 at the Lakeview Golf Resort. For more information about the meeting, visit the NABEC website: <http://nabec.asabe.org>.
- Washington State University is searching for an assistant professor of soil quality and sustainable soil management. [Click here to view the position description](#), which is also posted on the [NERA website](#).
- The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is searching for a Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Dean of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. [Click here to view the position description](#), which is also posted on the [NERA website](#).
- The National Science Foundation is holding their annual grants conference on June 4-5, 2018 in Detroit, MI. Registration opens on March 15th at 12:00 PM (EST) and the NSF is expecting that the conference will reach capacity quickly. For more information check [NSFGrantsConferences.com](#).
- The 6th Annual Communicating Science National Workshop (June 14-16, 2018; Boston, MA) is seeking graduate student applications. At the workshop, participants build communication skills that scientists and other technical professionals need to express ideas to their peers, experts in other fields, and the general public. For more information on the conference please see <https://comscicon.com/comscicon18-workshop>.
- Registration for the 2018 NERAOC conference (April 22-25; Grand Rapids, MI) is open at <http://www.canr.msu.edu/neraoc/>. Register by March 16 to secure the early-bird registration (save \$20!)



Follow @NERASAES on Twitter

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.

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.