



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

The [NERA Spring Meeting](#) is right around the corner. We are looking forward to gathering again in Washington. As you've heard us say in the past, we are at our best when we are together.

We're now calling the photo at the end of the newsletter "**The Parting Shot**".

Today's **Parting Shot** is a reminder that our climate is changing. In the face of this change, how will we make a difference? We invite you to share your photos and suggestions for **The Parting Shot**. Please include a title or caption for the photo/picture and a photo credit.

"The world needs better leaders

It's true and that's all

The world needs us to step up

With acts big and small..."

-Torin Perez (2018) in *Who Am I to Lead?* Globally Bold, LLC, Columbia, SC.

### Action items:

- The [agenda for the NERA Spring Meeting](#) on March 26-27, 2024, is now posted. Any director that will be attending the meeting and has not shared a jacket/vest size (agInnovation branding promo), should contact [David](#).
- As part of the agInnovation Lived Experience Webinar Series, the Diversity Catalyst Committee has invited Dr. Jackie Wiersma-Mosley to share a presentation titled "**Fulfilling the Land-grant Mission through Cultural Competency**" on February 22 at 4:00 PM ET. All are welcome and [registration, while free, is required](#).
- This afternoon, we sent a note to the NERA community seeking responses to a survey that gauges your understanding of the NERA value proposition. Please consider completing the brief (5-minute) poll. We value seeing your insights and reflections. (If you didn't receive a note asking for your input, here's a link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/neravalue2024>.)

### Reminders/Updates:

- We've secured a room block at the Residence Inn Washington Downtown (1199 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20005) for the NERA Spring Meeting. The room block includes the evenings of March 25 and March 26 at \$269/night. Breakfast is included with your room. As a reminder, we'll be meeting at the APLU and will convene at 8:30 AM ET on March 26 and adjourn in the early afternoon of March 27. The last day to secure a room in the block is March 4. Lodging information along with a link to the room block is [posted on the NERA website](#).

- [Registration](#) for the National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC), April 7-10, 2024, in Wilmington, DE, is now open. As a heads up, this is the first time (in a long time) that the Northeast has hosted this professional development, information sharing, and networking opportunity. This is a splendid opportunity for state CE, AES, and NIFA staff to gather, communicate, and collaborate.
- *Second time:* The [requests for agInnovation Awards nominations](#) have been posted. The nominations include Excellence in Leadership; Excellence in Multistate Research; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (individual and group); and Ag Research Innovation (this is a new award). We know that we have outstanding Northeast leaders, researchers, research projects, and DEI innovators. Here's the action item: please check out the calls for nominations and consider submitting a nomination.

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### Informational items:

- The College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University is seeking a [Director for the Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center](#) (COAREC), located in Madras, Oregon.
- The Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts is searching for a [Director of the UMass Cranberry Station](#) located in East Wareham, MA.
- *Second time:* The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development has published its 2023 Annual Report and that's available on the NERA website under [Workroom/Reports-Whitepapers/2024](#).
- *Last time:* [Registration is now open](#) for the National Science Foundation's webinar, **Updates to the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 24-1)** on Tuesday, March 12, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET.

### **The Parting Shot:**



A reminder that our climate is changing, 2024 winter storm waves, Narragansett RI. (Photo courtesy of WJAR, Providence, RI)



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

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