



As you'll see below in **Action Items**, OSTP Director Michael Kratsios' new report, *Science: A New Golden Age*, has plenty to recommend, but its push toward venture-style grant funding sidesteps a basic truth about what we do: publicly funded ag research is a public good, not a bet. It's worth remembering that every \$1 of federal capacity fund investment returns roughly \$51 in economic impact (per **Informational Items**, APLU's Capacity Initiative supported by the Tripp Umbach analysis), that's a return no venture fund could match.

As we are reminded, "Science is a beautiful gift to humanity, we should not distort it." - A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (1998). India's A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. *Time Archive*. <https://time.com/archive/6954955/indias-a-p-j-abdul-kalam-2/>

*Action items:*

- OSTP director Michael Kratsios just released a report titled [Science: A New Golden Age](#). We've drafted and posted an [analysis of the report](#), check that out. While there are a number of sound suggestions, the suggestion to shift grant funding to a venture-investment poses obstacles for work we do on behalf of the public good.
- Mark your calendars. We've shifted the date of the **agInnovation Northeast monthly zoom call** from August 20 to **August 21** at 8:00 AM ET. Stay tuned!
- Now is a good time to [register and reserve hotel rooms for the annual meeting for agInnovation](#) scheduled for September 21-24, 2026, in Grand Junction, CO. The theme for the meeting is "Inspiring Solutions to Tomorrow's Challenges".
- We shared a poll with the agInnovation directors on the potential to

move the Joint Summer Session from its traditional time of early June until early May. If you haven't responded to the poll, please think about it. We could use your input!

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Reminders/Updates:

- In the last newsletter, we reported that [we submitted comments](#) on behalf of the region to the Federal Register in response to the Office of Management and Budget proposed changes to Uniform Guidance. We see that the Senate Committee on Appropriations has placed language into a [Continuing Resolution](#) (see Section 157) that temporarily blocks issuing or finalizing the revisions to Uniform Guidance through December 11, 2026. We'll keep you posted as this situation evolves.
- During our June agInnovation Northeast business meeting, the association passed the FY2027 budget. Last week we forwarded to you your '27 organizational assessment notice. If you haven't received an invoice from us, please don't hesitate to [contact Rick and David](#).
- *Save the dates:*
  - agInnovation Annual Meeting, Grand Junction, CO, September 21-25, 2026 (hosted by Colorado State University)
  - agInnovation Northeast virtual meeting dates (2026, all begin at 8:00 AM)
    - **August 21** (*this meeting was originally scheduled for August 20*), October 15, November 19, December 17 (agInnovation Northeast Winter Meeting).

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Informational items:

- The Communications and Marketing Committee is sharing their August 2026 Communications toolkit titled "[Year at a Glance: September 2025 – July 2026](#)". In addition to including the archive of communications toolkits from the past 10 months, there's also a link to a newish feature, [Conversations with CEOs](#). The interviews offer opportunities to leverage collaboration and drive innovation. Check it out.
- Sarah Delheimer has just released the [Multistate Research Fund August 2026 Communications Toolkit](#). Please share this with your communicators and deploy these assets as needed! As a heads up, the [archive of toolkits](#) is available on the MRF Impacts website. To receive updates about these toolkits and quarterly newsletters, subscribe to the [MRF Impacts mailing list](#).
- Wendy Fink, APLU, recently released a copy of the [Economic Impact presentation](#) that was undertaken by Tripp Umbach, the consulting firm

that has been doing the work to support the Capacity Initiative. One of the takeaways: every \$1 of federal capacity fund investment generates ~\$51 in economic impact. We're very interested to see how the Capacity Initiative unfolds.

- The University of Vermont seeks applicants to serve as Director of UVM Extension and Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). The anticipated start date for this position is January 1, 2027. Visit the [UVMJobs site](#) for more information about this opportunity.

- Lewis-Burke Associates, the APLU BAA's government affairs consulting firm, will host a [Zoom conversation](#) with all agInnovation directors on **Wednesday, September 2 at 3:30 PM ET**. The meeting ID is 272 649 9338 and the passcode is NCRA2023!\$

- *The forever green reminder*: In past newsletters, we've made a pitch for "station" photos for both the agInnovation Northeast website and The Parting Shot. We encourage you to share shots from your libraries as well as other image sources. Please [forward pictures to us](#) with a caption and a photo credit.

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#### From the Archive:

- We keep an archive in the Workroom pulldown menu that includes: Agendas/Minutes, National Updates, agInnovation Northeast Correspondence, and Reports/Whitepapers. Per the first Action Item, the Workroom>[Reports/Whitepaper](#) portal is where we posted our explanatory notes and analysis of *Science: A New Golden Age*.

#### **The Parting Shot:**



"Rogues gallery or Rhodes scholars? You choose..." (L-R: David Leibovitz, Tsakani Ngomane, Rick Rhodes, Linda Prokopy, Brian Farkas, Dave Peterson) (Photo Credit: Tsakani Ngomane)

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