



Accomplishments Report of the Office of the Executive Director

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

agInnovation Northeast Operations

- Administration of agInnovation Northeast business practices.
- Cooperated and collaborated with business offices of agInnovation Northeast members.
- Regularly updated content on the agInnovation Northeast website.
- Kept up-to-date contact lists for agInnovation Northeast News, agInnovation Northeast Listserv, and agInnovation Northeast website directory.
- Wrote and delivered regular bi-weekly agInnovation Northeast News, all archived on the agInnovation Northeast website.
- Continued improvement of operational efficiency.
- Closed out FY '25 agInnovation Northeast financials; financials were aligned with the approved budget.
- Developed the FY'26 agInnovation Northeast budget (approved by agInnovation Northeast on June 4, 2025).
- Negotiated the 3-year renewal of agInnovation Northeast's Cooperative Agreement (2025-2028) with the University of Rhode Island.
- Launched name change and rebranding of NERA to agInnovation Northeast.

Regional Activities

- NIMSS, served as regional system administrators. Oversaw all NIMSS functions in the Northeast. Successfully routed all project renewals recommended by the MAC and approved by agInnovation Northeast.
- Conducted regional and national NIMSS training sessions in partnership with other regional associations via Zoom.
- Held one-on-one NIMSS training sessions on an as-needed basis.
- Guided final approval of multistate research projects, a process ascribed solely to the region.
- Conducted quick-response regional surveys to facilitate agInnovation Northeast business (voting), gather feedback on priorities, and inventory communications resources.
- Planned the agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, hosted in Clarksville, MD by University of Maryland. Utilized the agInnovation 501(c)(3) to support meeting planning activities and fully reimbursed the nonprofit. This served as the first test case of a regional association supporting its meeting with the resources of the national organization.
- Supported the MAC and MAC chair in planning, developing agendas, compiling materials, and running MAC Zoom conferences held on September 11, 2024, December 12, 2024, and June 4, 2025.
- Implemented monthly zoom calls late in the fiscal year (May 15, 2025, first call) for the region as we navigated an evolving Federal landscape.

- Assisted multiple multistate technical committees working through issues associated with requests to write, project re-write/revisions, project reports, and project peer reviews.
- Communicated regularly with the agInnovation Northeast Executive Committee on issues of importance to agInnovation Northeast.
- Funded and assisted with preparing for Large Language Model Northeast multistate asset mapping exercise conducted at University of New Hampshire by Anton Bekkerman (Director), Sam Carton (UNH faculty), and a student intern.
- Assisted the agInnovation Northeast chair in planning, developing agendas, compiling materials, and executing agInnovation Northeast Zoom calls held on August 10, 2023, and December 7, 2023.
- Assisted the agInnovation Northeast chair in planning, developing agendas, compiling materials, and executing face to face agInnovation Northeast meetings held on September 23, 2024 (Raleigh, NC), March 24-26, 2025 (Clarksville, MD) and June 4, 2025 (Princeton, NJ).
- Continued to hold conversations with Northeast communicators about “Creating a Regional Voice”. Created a web presence for the [Northeast Regional Voice](#) on the agInnovation Northeast website.
- Supported the 2025 face-to-face Northeast Joint (NEED/agInnovation Northeast/CARET) Summer Session (Princeton, NJ) planning committee including drafting versions of the meeting program and securing speakers. During the meeting, served as speaker and moderator.
- Participated in monthly conference calls with NE Climate Hub/University partnership.
- Assisted agInnovation Northeast Directors on an “as needed” basis.
- Worked closely with Ali Mitchell Dunigan to coordinate activities of agInnovation Northeast and NEED.
- Served as AA for NECC1901 *Integrating Genomics and Breeding for Improved Aquaculture Production of Molluscan Shellfish*, NRSP9 *National Animal Nutrition Program*, and NECC2312 *Northeast Coordinating Committee on Soil Testing*.
- Served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC). Provided guidance in the overall operations and mission of NRAC.
- Served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD). Provided guidance in the overall operations and mission of NERCRD.
- Invited speaker, University of Maine, Orono, ME, August 22-23, 2024. Topic: “Seeding Success: The Legacy and Future of the State Ag Experiment Station?”.

National Activities

- BAA Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC); served as the agInnovation Executive Director Administrative Representative and Executive Vice Chair. Provided strategic direction to the CMC.
- agInnovation Diversity Catalyst Committee; served as the Executive Vice Chair. Assisted in scheduling, planning, and agenda development for full committee Zoom calls on July 25, 2024, October 24, 2024, December 12, 2024, January 23, 2025, and February 27, 2025. Developed strategies for integrating the recommendations of the Diversity Catalyst Committee into the “system.” Conducted the year nine Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award review; identified recipients. Closed out committee work in response to an

Executive Order.

- agInnovation Finance Committee; served as the Executive Vice Chair. Provided strategic support for the committee and shadow accounting for APLU 5800 (agInnovation's operating account) and TD Wealth (agInnovation's investment account). Facilitated all operational transactions on behalf of agInnovation, serving as sole liaison between agInnovation vendors and APLU (payment processor). Worked directly with TD Wealth to create a proposal to rebalance the allocation of agInnovation's investment account.
- Served as a Sustaining Member on the agInnovation Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Board of Directors and Treasurer. Facilitated all operational transactions on behalf of the Nonprofit, serving as sole liaison with vendors. Initiated conversations with banks that support philanthropic organizations and explored transferring the agInnovation endowment from TD Wealth/APLU to the Nonprofit.
- Participated in the 2024 face-to-face agInnovation annual meeting (Raleigh, NC) planning committee.
- Coordinated offering and video promotion of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), an activity of the agInnovation Diversity Catalyst Committee. Coordinated the IDI debriefing webinars led by Jackie Mosley on March 13, 2025, April 16, 2025, and May 28, 2025.
- Provided SurveyMonkey support to agInnovation standing committees and BAA standing committees on an as-needed basis including gathering feedback on priorities and gauging willingness to travel and meet face-to-face.
- Participated and contributed to National Multistate Coordinating Committee (now called APLU/ED&A Team meetings.) Coordinated and collaborated with regional executive directors from CES and agInnovation.
- Met monthly with the regional agricultural experiment station Executive Directors.
- Met monthly with Ali Mitchell Dunigan, NEED Executive Director, and NIFA liaisons, Rubella Goswami, Susan Moser, Kevin Kephart, and Kal Kalavarcharla.
- Met monthly with regional association administrative staff.
- Assisted and supported other agInnovation committees including Science and Technology, National Research Support Project Review Committee, and Budget and Legislative.
- Attended the National Research Support Project Review Committee annual meeting on May 19-20, 2025, in Kansas City, MO.
- Served on the core team that drafted the agInnovation 2025-2035 Research Roadmap (now called Land-grant Pillars). This effort outlines a bold and innovative strategy that seeks added Federal investment to support agricultural R&D.
- Revised and rewrote the agInnovation Rules of Operation to reflect current business practices of the Section. The revised Rules were approved by the Section on March 4, 2025.
- Worked on revisions of the National Guidelines for Multistate Activities in conjunction with regional association counterparts (ongoing).
- Served as manager, webmaster, and primary point of contact for all agInnovation digital assets and websites. Oversaw and overhauled the ESCOP website (an internally facing website, now branded "agInnovation") and the new agInnovation website; provided institutional, regional, and national content to both.
- Worked with communications staff from all regions to gather stories for the agInnovation website.

- Supported BAA, agInnovation, and regional offices in response to recommendations by the APLU/Lewis-Burke on appropriations (capacity and competitive including these grant funding lines: Hatch, Evans-Allen, Smith-Lever, 1890's Extension, McIntire-Stennis, AFRI, and the Research Facilities Act.
- Participated in BAA Leadership meetings, BAA membership meetings, and BAA Policy Board of Directors meetings.
- Served as co-Chair with Ali Mitchell Dunigan of the New Administrators' Orientation program in Kansas City, July 2024.
- Signatory on behalf of agInnovation Northeast to multiple letters supporting initiatives that best serve our Association and the national ag experiment station system.
- Monitored NIFA programs through teleconferences and webinars including developments on the NIFA budget, competitive grants program, reporting requirements, Hatch MRF, and communications.
- Held monthly meetings with regional association counterparts and NIMSS technical support team at Clemson University Youth Learning Institute.
- Served as the Administrative Adviser for NRSP1 (David Leibovitz) and engaged in quarterly meetings of the NRSP1 review committee. Participated in re-drafting of the NRSP1 rules of operation.
- Continued to participate in the agInnovation rebranding initiative.
- Served on the LGU2U and Collaboration Coffees Steering Committee with colleagues from research, extension, and NIFA. The LGU2U and Collaboration initiative is intended to enhance partnership between Land-grant Universities and NIFA.
- Invited speaker, Annual National Extension and Research Administrative Officers Conference (NERAOC), Reno, NV, April 1-3, 2025. Topic: "Roundtable: How Do You Fulfill Your Multistate and Integrated Requirements?"
- Rotated on to the NERAOC planning committee, representing agInnovation.
- Participated in the National Academies' workshop, "Fulfilling the Public Mission of the Land Grant System: Building Platforms for Collaboration and Impact" on June 12-13, 2025.

Travel

- BAA Leadership Meeting, Providence, RI, July 16, 2024
- University of Maine, Orono, ME, , August 22-23, 2024
- agInnovation Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC, September 22-25, 2024
- Regional Rural Development Centers Meeting, Washington, DC, September 11-13, 2024
- APLU/ED&A Team meetings, Washington, DC, December 2-5, 2024
- NRAC Board of Directors Meeting, Baltimore, MD, January 16-17, 2025
- agInnovation Northeast Spring Meeting, Clarksville, MD, March 24-26, 2025
- National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Meeting (NERAOC), Reno, NV, April 1-3, 2025
- NCFAR Board of Directors and Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, May 6, 2025
- National Research Support Project Review Committee annual meeting, Kansas City, MO, May 19-20, 2025
- NEED/agInnovation Northeast/CARET Joint Summer Meeting, Princeton, NJ, June 2-4, 2025