

Creating Research, Extension, and Teaching Excellence for the 21st
Century (CREATE-21)
Summary*

NASULGC's BAA Policy Board of Directors, acting upon the reports and proposals of the Think-Tank Task Force, established the CREATE-21 Committee to further develop and refine those proposals to form the basis of legislative language changes for the Research, Education, and Extension (REE) title of the upcoming farm bill. The committee has worked diligently to accomplish these tasks and has sought widespread input from constituency groups both within and beyond the BAA. The Board has unanimously endorsed this work and unanimously has recommended that a positive vote of the Assembly be cast in support of continuing the efforts.

To briefly summarize, the basis for this work is the belief that the partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture (hereafter "the Department") and the land-grant universities can be brought to an optimal level of effectiveness through: (1) a dramatic and steady increase in federal funding and (2) a reorganization to improve interagency integration and program focus with all parties. It is recognized that the most advantageous levels of a collaborative partnership have not yet been achieved and there has continued to be a steady decline of federal funding over the past three decades. Each of these has contributed to a less than a best possible approach to the challenges within the food and fiber system.

To ameliorate this situation, the CREATE-21 Committee has proposed that funding for the REE title be doubled over the life of the new Farm Bill and that the Department reorganize REE with the following attributes:

- **Establishment.** There is established within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the National Institute of _____ ("Institute"), an independent agency reporting directly to the Secretary of Agriculture. Agencies, programs, and activities currently within the USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area and U.S. Forest Service R&D are consolidated in the Institute.
- **Purposes.** The Institute is established to meet the purposes set forth in Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (as amended), and these additional purposes:
 - To provide and cause to be provided the highest quality fundamental and applied research in the food and agricultural sciences; to maintain and enhance the health, social and economic welfare, and security of the people of the United States; and to preserve and enhance the environment.

*Companion papers include the "White Paper" & "Preliminary Legislative Outline"

- To provide education and extension programs for the citizens of the United States in order to: enhance the vitality of youth, families, and communities; ensure an increasing quality of life; and provide a supply of highly educated and trained human capital to meet the workforce needs of the food, agriculture, and natural resource industries in a global context.
- To sustain and enhance the capacity of the Institute and its land-grant and related university partners.
- **Capacity.** The Institute shall sustain and expand the capability of the Department to carry out intramural research programs and the capability of the Department's land-grant and related university partners (e.g. AASCARR Institutions) to perform extramural research, extension, education, and international programs. The Institute's effort to sustain and expand land-grant and related university infrastructure shall include increased funding through traditional base funding mechanisms (with appropriate matching requirements), with particular attention placed on building infrastructure at minority-serving institutions.
- **Programs.** The Institute's portfolio of programs will be collaboratively determined by the Director, the Deputy Directors, and the Institute's land-grant and related university partners, consistent with recommendations from the National Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The portfolio will include robust intramural and extramural research, extension, education, and international programs, to include a variety of peer-reviewed competitive grants programs. Open to all eligible institutions, these competitive grants programs may be single or multi-institutional, multistate, single or multidisciplinary, subject-matter-directed, and/or functionally integrated as well as those best suited for singular functions.
- **Director.** The Institute shall be headed by a Director who is an eminent scientist/educator, nominated by the President, and confirmed by the Senate for a six-year term to ensure continuity of programs. The Director shall appoint a Deputy Director for each area of focus and each such Deputy Director will coordinate the integrated funding portfolio under their jurisdiction. The Director shall also assemble other personnel necessary to conduct the work, business, and administration of the Institute. The Director shall be advised by the National Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The Director shall also establish mechanisms for input from local, state, tribal, or regional stakeholder groups as to the immediate, emerging, and future needs for research, extension, education, and international programs. The Director shall ensure a positive, interactive, and collaborative relationship is established and enhanced among the Institute, its various units and personnel, and the Institute's land-grant and related university partners.
- **New Funding Authorized.** Building upon the base of existing capacity and competitive funding, new funding authorization will be established that cause:

- Doubling of funding within seven years from \approx \$2.676 billion/year to \$5.352 billion/year with an emphasis on competitive programs (70%). Capacity programs, both for internal USDA laboratories/facilities and land-grant and related universities will receive the remainder (30%) of the increase.
- Competitive funding (authorization) to reach \$2.126 billion/year over seven years, with full indirect cost recovery. NIFA-like (fundamental) research will constitute 55% of the total funding, rising eventually to \$1.169 billion/year, with 20% reserved for institutional enhancement of 1890, 1994, and small 1862 land-grant institutions. Integrated (IFAFS-like) programs will constitute remaining 45%, rising eventually to \$957 million/year with 20% targeted for 1890s, 1994s, and small 1862 land-grant institutions.
- Capacity funding (authorization) to reach \$2.937 billion/year over seven years. With respect to new capacity funds, 77.5% will be distributed by the same percentage breakdown as currently occurs among the various current funding recipients (see legislative outline). The remaining new funds would be distributed: 17.5% for institutional enhancement at the 1890s, 1994s, Insulars, Small 1862s, and AASCARR institutions; and 5% retained in a "Director's Enhancement Fund."

If the CREATE-21 proposal is enacted and fully funded, at the end of seven years the capacity/competitive ratio — considering both existing funds (\approx \$2.676 Billion) and new funds (\approx \$2.676 Billion) — would be 42% competitive to 58% capacity. This will be a significant change from the current situation where some 90% of funding is spent on capacity items and 10% on competitive programs.

The BAAPBD has unanimously recommended to the BAA membership an affirmative vote on this plan.