



## NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

### **Creating Research, Extension, and Teaching Excellence for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** *Research, Education and Extension foundation for the future needs of People, Land, & Agriculture*

Washington, DC – May 3, 2007 – CREATE-21, a proposal to create the “National Institutes for Food and Agriculture” at USDA reporting to the Secretary, will be explored in a presentation at the third 2007 National C-FAR Hill Seminar by Dr. Robert D. Steele and Dr. L. Washington Lyons on Monday, May 7. The seminar will be held from 3:30-4:25 PM in 1302 LHOB.

“CREATE-21 would realign USDA’s research, education and extension functions into a more integrated model with a focus on problem solving and enhancing the capacity of the entire university and USDA based system,” Steele and Lyons concurred. “Authorizing and funding CREATE-21 will lead to advancements in production agriculture and the research and extension system that enables it. Our university based and federal researchers hold the potential for promising solutions to many of society’s greatest challenges. To answer those challenges we need a systems-based approach, which incorporates basic and applied research as well as extension and education resources. CREATE-21 will enhance the entire system, including our 1890 and 1994 institutions, to become more competitive based and responsive to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

“We are honored to have Drs. Steele and Lyons featured in today’s ‘Break & a Briefing’ Hill Seminar,” said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR. “CREATE-21 helps stimulate serious debate about how to optimize and maximize this critical federal investment in the future of the U.S. food and agriculture system and the public benefits such investments provide.”

Robert D. Steele, PhD, is dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State. L. Washington Lyons, PhD, is the Executive Administrator for the Association of Extension Administrators, working on behalf of the 1890 Extension Administrators. Dr. Lyons is a co-chair of CREATE-21.

The seminar is open to the public and the media. The complete CREATE-21 proposal and related information are at [www.create-21.org](http://www.create-21.org). CREATE-21 legislation has been introduced in the Senate (S. 1094). Questions related to the presentation should be directed Tom Van Arsdall ([tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com)) or Jim Richards at [jrichards@cgagroup.com](mailto:jrichards@cgagroup.com). Drs. Steele and Lyons are available for interviews.

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**NATIONAL C-FAR IS** a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer-led* coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. National C-FAR’s Hill Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. Interviews with National C-FAR President Joe Layton are available by request. For additional information, go to [www.ncfar.org](http://www.ncfar.org); or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at [tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com).