

# **National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board**

**March 18-20, 2008 - Doubletree Hotel – Washington, DC**

## **Educating the Future Work Force for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Areas**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board met in March of 2008 to address workforce development issues for the agriculture, natural resources, and related areas. The objectives of the discussion were twofold: 1) to identify what the agricultural community can do to attract more students into the agriculture, natural resources, and related areas; and 2) to identify and expand upon what changes are needed by universities, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and others to ensure that students are being trained for the needs of industry both currently and in the future.

Presentations were made by personnel from USDA agencies, non-profit organizations, higher education, corporations, industry representatives, and young professionals engaged in agriculture and related areas. Based on input and extensive discussion, it was concluded that the solution to narrowing the gap between supply and demand of trained agricultural professionals extends beyond exclusive classroom education.

Given the input and discussion, the Board has developed three recommendations to contribute to the success of educating the future workforce:

- 1) create and cultivate a new brand and image for agriculture**
- 2) enhance technical and practical experiences for the future workforce**
- 3) support programs to develop leadership skills at all ages and levels of agriculture and food system involvement.**

A more detailed report on the three recommendations follows this executive summary.