



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

***Farm Foundation Forum examines support  
for publicly-funded food & agriculture research and education***

**OAK BROOK, IL Sept. 17, 2018:** The research laboratories of colleges and universities have for decades had a critical role in developing tools to enhance the competitiveness and productivity of the nation's food and agriculture sector. But reductions in support for publicly-funded research is challenging the ability of educational institutions to do this work, at the same time as other nations are investing more in agricultural research.

The Farm Foundation® Forum on Wednesday, Sept. 19, will examine how changes in public funding tools have challenged the ability of educational institutions to maintain their research programs, as well as to build educational programs to develop the human capital needed for a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

The Forum, *The ROI for Higher Education in Food and Agriculture*, will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. EDT at the National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. A free live audiocast will be available for those unable to attend the event in person.

“We believe it is critically important for public and private leaders to be fully aware of the challenges and opportunities facing today's higher education institutions,” says Farm Foundation President Constance Cullman. “The Land Grants, community colleges and private institutions are critical partners in developing the technologies and preparing the human capital needed to maintain and grow the food and agriculture sector.”

Policy leaders and educators providing perspectives on these challenges include:

- Former U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, President of the Lugar Center,
- Michael Martin, Ph.D., President of Florida Gulf Coast University,
- Ronnie Green, Ph.D., Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, and
- Jay Akridge, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Diversity, Purdue University.

Cullman will moderate the discussion. After comments by the panelists, the floor will be opened for questions and discussion.

There is no charge to participate in the Forum, but registration is requested.

- Register [HERE](#) if you plan to attend the Forum in person at the National Press Club.

- For the free live audiocast, register [HERE](#). Audiocasting is made possible by a grant from Farm Credit.

***Who should participate in the Forum:*** People with an interest in agricultural, food and rural policy, including members of Congress, congressional staff, executive branch officials, industry representatives, NGO representatives, Embassy representatives, academics and members of the media.

***The Forum:*** Farm Foundation organizes these public forums to engage all stakeholders in informed dialogue on food, agricultural and rural policies. Participants examine current policies, explore and analyze alternative policy options, and give voice to new proposals.

***Audio from the session*** will be posted on the Farm Foundation [website](#). Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

***For more information:***

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