Madison, WI, January 25, 2012 – Leonardo Academy hosted their quarterly meeting of the multi-stakeholder Sustainable Agriculture Standard Committee by webinar on January 17th last week. The Draft Standard for Sustainable Agriculture (LEO-4000) is completing current work to receive committee approval and subsequent public comment in the spring of 2012.

**Annual Meeting Announced**
The Committee Chair, Brian McElroy of Driscoll’s Strawberry Associates and Leonardo Academy president Michael Arny were pleased to announce the dates of the Annual Standard Committee Meeting for 2012. The committee will convene in Washington D.C. at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) April 24-25th, 2012 to review final draft work from the subcommittees for submission to ANSI for consideration of release to public comment. All stakeholders and new interested persons were encouraged to attend all or part of this pivotal parliamentary meeting. Those who are not yet registered observers of the LEO-4000 process were encouraged to apply now to be in attendance in April.

**Subcommittee Activity Reports Results**
The Co-Chairs gave reports charting great progress since the last meeting, presenting draft standard material by the subcommittees that oversee the development of Social, Economic and Environmental sustainability criteria. Discussion of the material provided the critical diverse stakeholder feedback that comprises these standard committee meetings to guide and direct the subcommittees in their ongoing editing process. The committee leadership expressed satisfaction with the direction and amount of work product presented. The subcommittees reported plans to set up further intensified working groups through the spring to continue building on progress made.

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**Opportunities to Participate in Developing the Sustainable Agriculture Standard**
There are currently openings for the subcommittees and the voting Standard Committee. Those who are interested can participate at the subcommittee and standard committee levels. Leonardo Academy is seeking producers, manufacturers, retailers, consumers and end-user representatives to participate while there is still time to participate in writing and reviewing the draft standard. To receive an application for membership on a subcommittee, observer status or on the Standards Committee, contact Jennifer Trucks at Leonardo Academy: jennifer@leonardoacademy.org, (608) 280-0255, or visit
The Standards Committee
There are 58 seats on the Standards Committee to accommodate a broad range of perspectives. The Standards Committee is working to develop a national standard for sustainable agriculture under the rules of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The Standards Committee consists of a skilled, diverse membership representing a broad range of perspectives from across all areas of agriculture, including commodity and specialty crop producers; agricultural product processors and distributors; food retailers; environmental, labor, and development organizations; NGOs; trade associations; government representatives; academics; regulators and certifiers.

Donations
The development of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard is funded through donations and grants. Leonardo Academy needs your support to develop the draft standard and welcomes donations to support this vital development process to improve social, economic and environmental sustainability in U.S. agriculture. To make a tax deductible donation to support the development process, go to http://www.leonardoacademy.org/programs/standards/agstandard/donate.html.

About Leonardo Academy

Mission Statement
Leonardo Academy is a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing sustainability by leveraging innovative tools and information to motivate the competitive market. By utilizing an interdisciplinary approach to sustainability strategies, education and implementation, we strive to make sustainability practical for everyone. We develop integrative sustainability solutions designed to enhance the environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic prosperity of organizations, corporations and individuals. We see a world filled with sustainable opportunities that can transform the way we live today and ensure the prosperity of future generations.

Programs and Services
Leonardo Academy works on a broad range of sustainability issues and provides comprehensive sustainability programs and services to help companies, organizations, families and individuals implement sustainability. Our programs and services include: organizational
sustainability assessments and implementation; emissions footprints, reduction strategies and offsets; event emissions footprints, sustainability assessments and implementation; sustainable event certification through our Cleaner and Greener® Program; LEED® assessments, implementation and certification application preparation; sustainable land management; sustainability training; and sustainability standards development. Join Our Work Individuals, organizations and companies are invited to join in Leonardo Academy’s work on advancing sustainability. One important way to join in our work is by making a charitable donation to support these efforts. Online donations can be made at: www.leonardoacademy.org.

For more information about Leonardo Academy, visit our website at www.leonardoacademy.org.

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