

COSSA

Consortium of Social Science Associations



*Advocating
for the
Social and Behavioral Sciences
for Over 25 Years*

2008 Annual Report

GOVERNING MEMBERS

American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association

Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Rural Sociological Society
Society for Research in Child Development

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

American Agricultural Economics Association
American Association for Agricultural Education
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Research Libraries
Council on Social Work Education
Eastern Sociological Society
International Communication Association
Justice Research and Statistics Association
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations

North American Regional Science Council
North Central Sociological Association
Population Association of America
Social Science History Association
Society for Behavioral Medicine
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Sociologists for Women in Society
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

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Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
Carnegie-Mellon University
University of Chicago
Clark University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Georgetown University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Harvard University
Howard University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
University of Iowa
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Kansas State University
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse

University of Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
New York University
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
University of South Carolina
Stanford University
State University of New York, Stony Brook
University of Texas, Austin
Texas A & M University
Tulane University
Vanderbilt University
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Yale University

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

American Academy of Political and Social Sciences
American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
Brookings Institution
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research

Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
Institute for Women's Policy Research
National Bureau of Economic Research
National Opinion Research Center
Population Reference Bureau
Social Science Research Council

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year saw a historic presidential election contest, the appearance of a major economic crisis that exploded the deficit, and the postponement into next year by the Congress of its job of allocating federal spending among the agencies. With all this, COSSA's efforts to promote the social and behavioral sciences remained constant. One result of these efforts was that unlike recent years, there were no attacks on these sciences in the Congress in 2008.



One major activity that has kept COSSA busy has been a focus on enhancing diversity in the sciences. On February 28, COSSA, led by Deputy Director Angela Sharpe, organized a major event. The retreat featured speakers from Federal agencies, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, university leadership, and the legal world. A report was produced and is available at www.cossa.org. There were many follow-up activities and the hard-working planning committee has reconstituted itself to conduct other events, including a briefing on Capitol Hill in 2009.

Another new focus for COSSA in 2008 stemmed from a renewed interest in the social and behavioral sciences by the Department of Defense (DOD). Secretary Robert Gates told the Association of American Universities that it was time to reinvigorate these sciences into the research agenda of the Department. Project Minerva became the vehicle for research solicitations from both DOD and the National Science Foundation (NSF). COSSA played a consultative role with both these agencies who wondered how receptive the social/behavioral research community would be to these solicitations. Despite concerns from some quarters, response to the solicitations was significant. DOD made its awards in late 2008. NSF expects to do so in early 2009.

In another year when the appropriations process was stymied by election-year politicking and a Continuing Resolution funded most of the government for the first five months of Fiscal Year 2009, COSSA maintained its advocacy activity in this arena. COSSA provided testimony, met with congressional staff, and communicated with the congressional leadership regarding funding for the NSF, National Institutes of Health, the Institutes of Education Sciences and international and graduate education programs, research and statistics agencies at the Departments of Agriculture and Justice, and the Science directorate at the Department of Homeland Security. COSSA also helped save the American Time Use Survey that the Bureau of Labor Statistics had targeted for elimination.

As we move forward into the promise of a new administration that like others before it uses social and behavioral research, COSSA will remain determined advocates for science and our disciplines. Thanks as always, to COSSA's Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, all our members, and the COSSA staff, for their continued support of our important work.

Following the election, COSSA produced a Transition Document recommending activities and structural changes for science agencies and for research and statistics agencies in the mission departments that affect the social and behavioral sciences. It reflects the range of COSSA's interests and activities over its many years of advocacy and into the future. The document follows below.

Howard J. Silver, Executive Director

THE SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES (SBE) IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

Congratulations! Your campaign has utilized the research results from the SBE sciences, such as cognitive studies on survey and poll questions, studies of Americans' attitudes and voting behavior, and analyses of the national and world economy, to achieve your important victory. As you prepare to take office, almost all of the issues confronting your new Administration will also involve application of research outcomes from the SBE sciences. As Thomas Friedman has noted, the flattening of the world has allowed individuals to make decisions as to where to study, live and work. Understanding these individual decisions as well as their social and economic contexts should be paramount to any Administration's science and public policy agenda. Research and researchers in the SBE sciences have fostered human progress through their contributions to public policy in a number of key areas: creating a safer world both internationally and domestically; increasing prosperity; improving health; educating the nation; protecting the environment; and promoting fairness.

In addition, in the current economic uncertainty the social and behavioral sciences will make important contributions on issues such as restructuring regulatory mechanisms, assessing the impact of economic policies on economic growth, measuring consumer behavior, and discerning the implications of tax policy changes.

SBE scientists' have increased their use of recent advancements in new research tools such as functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging and increased computational power. These have allowed for examination of brain and behavior relationships, spatial analyses as they relate to policy, the ability to combine large data sets and mine them for information, the capacity to focus on complexity in human and societal behavior, and the ability to seek answers to other important research questions.

The SBE sciences are ready to meet the challenges facing this country and the world, but only with adequate support from and the full commitment of your Administration. In the following pages, we outline the areas where the SBE sciences are making important contributions and highlight the government agencies where support for that research is necessary.

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

OSTP serves a major purpose in coordinating the nation's science and technology enterprise. The head of OSTP serves as the President's key adviser on research and development.

COSSA Recommends: COSSA concurs with the rest of the scientific community and urges the early appointment of a presidential science adviser and head of OSTP. COSSA also agrees that the head of OSTP should be elevated to Cabinet status with direct access to the President.

The new director should have a keen appreciation for the contributions of the SBE sciences and their contributions to American science and public policy. He or she should revive the position of Assistant Director for the SBE Sciences. Any committee structure, such as the current National Science and Technology Council should include a separate SBE panel. The President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology should include distinguished social/behavioral scientists who understand the

importance of these sciences to America's economic and technological competitiveness.

The Basic Research Agencies

Basic research provides the seed corn upon which the nation's scientific enterprise flourishes. For the SBE sciences the key agencies are the National Science Foundation and its SBE Directorate, and the National Institutes of Health and its Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

The NSF is the premier basic research agency in the world supporting studies across all the sciences. The America COMPETES Act calls for the doubling of the NSF budget in seven years. COMPETES includes all the sciences that NSF supports as priorities for that doubling.

The SBE Directorate at NSF is one of six research directorates. It will have a new leader in May 2009. The Directorate supports research in key interdisciplinary areas such as climate change decision-making. It supports the collection, analysis and dissemination of three longitudinal data sets - the Panel of Income Dynamics, the General Social Survey, and the American National Election Studies - that have painted a portrait of the American economic, political and social landscape over many years. The Economics program has supported 39 Nobel Prize winners. The Science, Resources, Statistics division is responsible for collecting and analyzing data on the nation's scientific and engineering enterprise and on the education of the scientific workforce, publishing the biannual Science and Engineering Indicators report. NSF also supports key research on education through its support for the Science of Learning Centers and through essential funding by its division of Learning in Formal and Informal Settings in the Education and Human Resources Directorate.

COSSA Recommends: Fulfill the promise of the COMPETES Act and double NSF's funding across all the sciences it supports, including the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. Appoint SBE scientists to the National Science Board. Include the SBE sciences in all programs related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Nearly 125 million Americans are living with one or more chronic conditions, like heart disease, cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, arthritis, asthma, mental illness and Alzheimer's disease. Since an Institute of Medicine report in 1982 that noted almost half of deaths are from behaviorally-related causes, the importance of behavior, life-style, and socio-economic contexts have become an ever-increasing part of the agenda for a healthy nation. Obesity, health disparities, aging and retirement, children's well-being, HIV/AIDS prevention, alcoholism and drug abuse are all areas where social and behavioral research is essential to solving the health problems of America and the world. Many health leaders have made it clear that behavior change underlies much of disease prevention, treatment, and cost containment.

The NIH has a strong behavioral component supporting behavioral and social science research throughout most of its 27 institutes and centers. The agency estimates it spends about ten percent of its budget on behavioral and social science research. In 1993 Congress recognized the importance of these sciences to the nation's health and created the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at NIH. OBSSR supports the development and application of systems integrative

science approaches to study how multiple factors - behavioral, social, and biological - interact with each other and change over time to influence health.

The completion of the Human Genome Project has helped us understand the genetic influences on health. We now need to focus on the gene-environment interaction that affects our well-being.

In addition, three major studies - the Health and Retirement Survey (supported by the National Institute on Aging), the Adolescent Health Survey (supported by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development) and the new National Children's Study (in the Office of the Director) - provide excellent data for investigating many different health problems for these populations.

COSSA Recommends: Appoint a new NIH director who clearly understands the importance of social/behavioral factors on health. Continue to support social/behavioral research related to health and behavior issues. Enhance the role of the OBSSR by including it on the NIH Steering committee that focuses on NIH-wide policies and operational decisions.

Research and Statistics in the Cabinet Departments

One of the more disturbing trends in the past twenty-five years has been the erosion of support for the research and statistics agencies in the major domestic departments of the Federal government. Another concern has been protection of the independence and integrity of these agencies.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Rural residents and communities continue to play important social, economic, and political roles in the nation's life. In the 21st Century farming plays a role in many areas such as energy resources and food security. More importantly, sectors of the economy beyond farming underlie the long-term health of rural America and so issues such as poverty, natural resource sustainability, energy policy, and community development have become important. More specifically, these research areas include: new directions in population change and diversity, the reshuffling and remaking of rural families, rural children at risk, rural poverty, land use, trade, rural health, rural infrastructure, schools, and transportation, economic restructuring, the rise of tourism, and natural amenity development. The 2008 Farm Bill reconfigured research at the U.S.D.A. A new National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will have six major research agendas as well as a Chief Scientist to support competitive research.

COSSA Recommends: Any research agenda for Rural America must include social and economic questions. The NIFA must be led by a person who understands the changing nature of rural America and the importance of the social science research agenda. There needs to be more equitable funding for the six new research areas. In addition, the Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service need strong leaders and more resources.

Department of Commerce: U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

The new Administration will take office a little more than a year from the 2010 decennial census. As a member of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, COSSA wants to ensure that the constitutionally-mandated count is as complete and accurate as possible. There will be many roadblocks to achieving

this goal. Already, the fear factor in many immigrant communities is high. The American Community Survey (ACS) exists to compile data on issues that were once part of the long-form decennial census questionnaire and provide them to states and localities for policy planning services.

Other economic data collections, many collected by the BEA, are also important to the nation.

COSSA Recommends: Appoint a new Director of the Census Bureau as soon as possible. The new director must have the trust and confidence of the Administration, the Congress, and the American people. The Bureau's efforts in outreach and advertising must be strongly supported. The continued fiscal health of the ACS must be assured and ways found to provide data to small areas that help these places while maintaining confidentiality. Given its support from seven former U.S. Census directors, the Administration should consider the recommendation to make the U.S. Census Bureau an independent agency.

The BEA, keeper of the nation's income accounts, must have strong leadership and enhanced resources so that it can complete its efforts to bring research and development activities into the GDP. Its independence and integrity must be protected.

Finally, after more than forty-five years it is time to redefine the U.S. poverty measure. Numerous congressional hearings, professional seminars, and other activities have demonstrated the need for an update. The National Academy of Sciences' Report Measuring Poverty demonstrates how to accomplish this. Its recommendations need implementation.

Department of Defense (DOD)

In April 2008, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates declared it was time for the Department to re-engage with the social and behavioral sciences. The Secretary noted that: "Too many mistakes have been made over the years because our government and military did not understand - or even seek to understand - the countries or cultures we were dealing with." Project Minerva was launched to implement the Secretary's vision and has led to expanded resources within DOD's basic research budget committed to the SBE sciences.

In addition, at a joint hearing held by the House Armed Services and Science and Technology Committees in May 2008, testimony was delivered about social/behavioral research regarding military families and other aspects of the U.S. defense effort. Other hearings held by the Armed Services Committee have focused on language and cultural training for U.S. troops.

COSSA Recommends: Continued expansion of DOD's efforts in the SBE sciences. The Army Research Office, the Office of Naval Research, and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research should be encouraged to enhance their efforts in understanding the human and cultural aspects of military and defense operations. More language and cultural training for U.S. troops would also be helpful.

Department of Education

Social/behavioral scientists, including education researchers, have played a major role in advancing knowledge about teaching and learning. Cognitive science has been especially productive in improving understanding of how learning occurs, particularly in reading and mathematics, and has fostered development of powerful new approaches for education. Decades of social/behavioral

science research on all aspects of early childhood and the pre-school years has supported efforts of policy makers to enact effective programs for these youngsters. Ongoing research on school organization and teacher education has manifested itself in many reform efforts being undertaken in state and local school districts. Evaluation and assessment of these programs to demonstrate what works relies on the expertise and methodologies of social/behavioral scientists. Similarly, international assessments and comparative studies have depended on the expertise of social/behavioral scientists and the support provided by the Federal government. In addition, the changing demographics of our nation's school systems make research on learning by non-traditional students imperative.

Social/behavioral scientists have also conducted important research in the higher education realm. Studies of the student aid system, escalating college costs, course and curriculum selection, including why women and minorities disproportionately eschew science courses and careers, attitudes of first year college students, and the economic value of a college education are part of a long research heritage.

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is the Department of Education's entity focused on research, statistics, and dissemination. Authorized in 2002, the new structure has worked toward the important goal of advancing education research of the highest quality and rigor and promoting the independence and integrity of its activities. The international education and foreign language programs of Title VI of the Higher Education Act remain a key to keeping American students in the forefront of global education. The National Academies' study *International Education and Foreign Languages: Keys to Securing America's Future* has demonstrated the importance of these programs.

The Jacob K. Javits Fellowship program, which supports graduate students in the social sciences, humanities, and arts, has seen its budget eroded during recent years as a result of across-the-board cuts in its appropriation bill.

COSSA Recommends: Continued support, with increased budgets for the research of IES and the longitudinal surveys and basic data collections of its National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Strong researchers should lead the IES and NCES. The upcoming reauthorization of IES needs to maintain the present independence of the NCES by ensuring that its director is appointed by the President with Senate confirmation.

Implement the recommendations of National Academies' report on the international education and foreign language programs, including the appointment of an Assistant Secretary for all the departments programs in these areas. Restore the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays budgets to the inflation-adjusted levels of the late 1960s. Restore the cuts to the Javits Fellowship program and enhance the number of students supported under this program.

**Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

The CDC is the nation's primary prevention agency. The expertise of the SBE sciences is critical to America's quest to promote health, prevent disease and provide quality treatment. This research provides knowledge about the social, cultural, and economic environments that influence human health and behavior and the means by which these environments exert their influence. Applied social

and behavioral science research is among the primary tools used by the CDC to understand the causes of poor health, identify the populations at risk, and develop interventions for health promotion and disease prevention. Any response to a health pandemic will involve SBE research in communication and mass behavior.

The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency. The Center provides critical data on all aspects of our health care system by collecting and analyzing data through the Health Interview Survey (HIS) and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Both of these important data collections have suffered from insufficient resources in recent years. NCHS' data allows us to: monitor the capacity and performance of the U.S. health care system, including tracking waiting times in emergency departments and measuring unmet health care needs; understand the trends in the use of health care services, as well as the extent to which new medical technology is adopted, and the burden placed on the health care system by individual diseases; focus policy and health programs on issues of greatest importance by providing a credible, scientific basis for understanding the magnitude of problems, and by helping generate hypotheses for health services and biomedical research; and measure and understand differentials between different groups in the population, including racial and ethnic differences in health, in order to help identify strategies for narrowing these gaps. In recent years,

NCHS, funded primarily through the Public Health Service evaluation set-aside, has lost its visibility, particularly in budgetary deliberations, as CDC's current leadership has buried it in a bureaucratic restructuring.

COSSA Recommends: Appoint a CDC director who clearly understands the importance of social/behavioral factors for prevention. Restore the NCHS' visibility and increase its resources so that the HIS and NHANES can remain important sources of our nation's health information.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ supports research to improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services. AHRQ provides policy makers with information needed to make educated decisions about our health care and the capacity to monitor and evaluate system changes on access, cost, and use of health care services. For example, AHRQ's National Healthcare Disparities Report tracks disparities in both quality of and access to health care in the United States and monitors the nation's annual progress toward eliminating these disparities. Similarly, AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program—which evaluates the comparative effectiveness of medical treatments—has already demonstrated its potential to help inform patient and provider decisions. AHRQ research and data will play an important role in any attempt to revamp the nation's healthcare system.

COSSA Recommends: Provide sufficient resources that are dedicated to enhancing AHRQ's efforts to support research designed to improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services.

Policy Research

The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (APSE) is the principal advisor to the Secretary of

Health and Human Services on policy development. The ASPE office also conducts and supports policy research, evaluation and economic analysis. It also funds the national and regional poverty centers. ASPE is funded almost exclusively by the Public Health Service Evaluation set-aside.

It has supported social science research that led to the enactment of welfare reform and has sponsored studies evaluating the impact of that reform. ASPE has also played a significant role in analyzing health care reforms, and many federal programs affecting children, youth and families.

COSSA Recommends: Strengthen this office and its ability to conduct and support important research and evaluation studies by appointing a strong researcher as its leader and providing additional funding for its activities.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Terrorists are people and terrorism is an act of behavior. The social and behavioral sciences have a strong role to play in keeping our nation safe. The Department of Homeland Security's Center of Excellence for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), housed at the University of Maryland, has been conducting important studies into terrorist group formation and recruitment, terrorist group persistence and dynamics, and societal responses to terrorist threats and attacks. In addition, many of the other Centers of Excellence have SBE components. SBE scientists have also conducted important research on detecting deception and continue to monitor attitudes towards America in nations across the globe.

The DHS has also recognized the significance of human factors regarding terrorism and other extreme events by creating a division with its Science and Technology Directorate to focus on social and behavioral issues. It also continues to support undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships for students across all fields including the social and behavioral sciences.

COSSA Recommends: Maintain support for the Centers of Excellence. Appoint a leader for the Science and Technology Directorate who appreciates the importance of the social and behavioral contexts of terrorism and one who understands the human dimensions of disasters. Implement the recommendations in the 2006 National Research Council report, Facing Hazards and Disasters. Invest in developmental science to better understand the early roots of terrorism, and inform interventions that disrupt the recruitment of young people into those pathways.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has undergone tough times in the past two decades. Its budget has declined, its focus has scattered from its core functions, and its ability to fulfill its research support, data collection and analysis mission has deteriorated. The American Housing Survey, the basic study of our nation's housing stock, is a shadow of its former self, with sample sizes so reduced that the San Francisco Bay Area is not in the sample. As the nation continues to undergo a housing crisis research, evaluation, and data collection become even more important. The National Academies' has recently released a report: Rebuilding the Research Capacity at HUD. The report concluded that PD&R should: conduct regular, rigorous evaluations of all HUD programs; develop a more systematic internal

research agenda and conduct more large-scale, high-impact studies that answer basic policy questions; produce enhanced surveys more closely related to programs and more publicly available administrative data sets; and disseminate its research products more effectively. It also needs enhanced resources. The report also suggests that PD&R has been relegated to the backwater of HUD and that Department leadership had not taken a great interest in the office.

COSSA Recommends: Implementing the National Academies' report's recommendations to revive PD&R should be a priority of the next HUD Secretary.

Department of Justice: National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

Preserving domestic tranquility is one of the constitution's reasons for a Federal government. Although most of the activity in the criminal justice system occurs at the state and local levels, there is a major Federal role for this activity. Aside from the FBI, the Federal Prison system, the Federal Courts, and support for state and local law enforcement, the Federal government has the important responsibility of supporting research and data collection, analysis and dissemination. The social and behavioral sciences have contributed significant insights into how to measure crime, the causes of criminal behavior, the careers of criminals, and youth violence. Hot spots, COMPSTAT, community policing, and other crime fighting activities have developed from research conducted by SBE scientists. The crucial issue of prisoner reentry has been the focus of many recent research and evaluation efforts.

The research and statistics arms of the Department of Justice are NIJ and the BJS. Both agencies are currently the subjects of reviews by National Academy of Sciences' panels of distinguished scientists and practitioners. The BJS panel has issued a preliminary report calling for the improvement of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), a major resource for compiling crime and victim data.

COSSA Recommends: The research and statistics efforts at DOJ need restructuring. Right now NIJ and BJS sit in the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). This is not a good situation as they are budgetarily and bureaucratically co-mingled with state and local law enforcement assistance programs. We recommend the establishment of a new Assistant Attorney General for Research, Statistics, and Technology that will protect the integrity and independence of DOJ's efforts, which in recent years have been too easily compromised through political pressures. These activities also need enhanced resources.

Cross-Cutting Issues

There are a number of issues that cut across many departments and agencies. COSSA highlights two where SBE scientists have played and will continue to play crucial roles.

Climate Change

The consensus has finally arrived that climate change is something any new Administration must confront, which means new global agreements will be negotiated and implemented. Social and behavioral scientists have been focused on the human dimensions of global climate change for a long time. Numerous National Academies' reports as well as the International Panel on Climate Change

have recognized the importance of human activity and social and behavioral research on this topic. NSF has begun a program called the Dynamics of Coupled Human and Natural Systems, an interdisciplinary activity supporting research on environmental questions.

It has also supported, along with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), research on decision making under uncertainty. A large amount of work has occurred on land use and land cover issues, particularly with regard to agricultural usage and outputs. In addition, any post-Kyoto agreement will rely on SBE work on international politics, negotiating strategies that go back to game theory, and economic theory on incentives for behavior change.

COSSA Recommends: Maintain support for research activity relating to the human dimensions of global climate change, particularly at NOAA and EPA. Appoint SBE scientists to positions in the government and on advisory committees that deal with climate change.

Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications Research and Activities

Legislation establishing the Human Genome Project, the National Nanotechnology Initiative, and the Information Technology Research Initiative all recognized the importance of conducting research on the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of these new discoveries and technologies. The research has already led to legislation in the area of genetic discrimination, the digital divide, and a renewed focus on environmental health and safety issues.

The Code of Federal Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects (45 CFR 46) needs to be understood and implemented with a fuller appreciation of what constitutes ethical conduct in all fields of science. The Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) in the Department of Health and Human Services is the major governmental entity with responsibility for education, compliance, policy, and guidance. Leadership from OHRP could far better align the responsible and ethical conduct of research with continued advancements in the human sciences. The implementation of the regulations and possible reforms and reinterpretations are of considerable interest to the SBE community and furthermore are domains where the SBE sciences bring substantial scientific and ethical expertise.

COSSA Recommends: Enhance support for ELSI research across the government with regard to new technologies. Ensure that the director of OHRP understands that human research protection in the SBE sciences needs to be better aligned with the methods and practices in these sciences rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all approach to requirements. Any advisory committees should have a significant presence from the SBE sciences.

Conclusion

Unprecedented challenges await your new Administration in all facets of American life. The social, behavioral, and economic sciences have contributed much to the nation through both basic and applied research. It is now time for the nation to utilize such expertise in support of public policies that will create a safer world, increase prosperity, improve health, educate the nation, protect the environment, and most importantly, promote fairness and respect. COSSA and the organizations it represents are fully committed to assisting you and your new Administration in these endeavors.

HIGHLIGHTS

Enhancing Diversity in Science Retreat



On February 28, COSSA and other scientific societies organized a meeting of the leadership of professional associations and scientific societies, *Enhancing Diversity in Science: A Leadership Retreat on the Role of Professional Associations and Scientific Societies*. A summary report of the meetings has been published and is being released to the public. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) was a major source of the meeting's funding along with additional funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Speakers included: Howard J. Silver, Consortium of Social Science Associations; Shirley M. Malcom, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Arthur L. Coleman, Holland & Knight Law; Erich D. Jarvis, Duke University Medical Center; Andrés E. Jiménez, University of California Office of the President; Raynard S. Kington, National Institutes of Health; Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President,



Raynard Kington



Wanda Ward



Freeman Hrabowski



Shirley Malcom

University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Wanda E. Ward, The National Science Foundation; Jeremy M. Berg, National Institute of General Medical Sciences; Ted Greenwood, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; Joan Y. Reede, Harvard Medical School; and Mary Ann McCabe, Society for Research in Child Development.

Meeting participants included representatives from: NIH and 10 of the Institutes and Centers - NIDDK (Diabetes), NCI (Cancer), NINDS (Neurological Disease and Stroke), NIDA (Drug Abuse), NIMH (Mental Health), NICHD (Child Health and Human Development), NIA (Aging), NIEHS (Environmental Health Sciences), NCRR (Research Resources) and ORWH (Women's Health); two NSF directorates – Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, and Education and Human Resources; the National Research Council; three foundations; 37 professional associations and scientific societies; five universities; the Holland and Knight law firm; and the Children's Medical Center.

Appropriations

The FY 2009 appropriations process was fraught with frustration. Early on, COSSA provided testimony to and worked with the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee in the House. COSSA succeeded in getting report language redressing the imbalanced increases for the research directorates at NSF, and providing increases to implement recommended improvements in the National Crime Victimization Survey at the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In June, COSSA joined the rest of the scientific community in numerous advocacy activities to obtain \$150 million allocated to NIH and \$62.5 million allotted to NSF in the War Supplemental Appropriations bill.

The process then got bogged down leading to a Continuing Resolution (CR) that included regular spending bills for the Departments of Defense (DOD) and Homeland Security (DHS), and funding at the FY 2008 levels for the domestic research and statistics agencies. COSSA again worked with stakeholder groups to advocate for an exception to the FY 2008 freeze to successfully achieve full FY 2009 funding for the U.S. Census Bureau's preparations for the 2010 Census. COSSA also help save the American Time Use Survey, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics had sought to eliminate.

The Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR), which COSSA co-chairs, also submitted testimony regarding the budgets of the National Institutes of Health regarding its support for these sciences.



Secretary Robert Gates

In addition, COSSA worked again with the Council for Food and Agricultural Resources Economics (CFARE) to submit testimony to the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittees.

Social/Behavioral Science and DOD: Project Minerva

In April, Defense Secretary Robert Gates spoke at a meeting of the Presidents of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and announced that it was time for the DOD research agenda to increase its attention to the social and behavioral sciences. This led to the launching of Project Minerva as well as increases in funding for these sciences in DOD basic research budgets.

COSSA, working with AAU, played a consultative role with DOD and later NSF in the development and dissemination of Minerva. AAU President Bob Berdahl met with the COSSA Executive Committee in June. The Army Research Office announced its solicitation in June and consulted with COSSA regarding the acceptance by the community of this outreach. In July, NSF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DOD and the following month had its own solicitation related to Minerva, which COSSA disseminated. The DOD made its awards in late 2008. NSF is expected to do so in early 2009.

HEARINGS SHOWCASING SOCIAL and BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA), a Ph.D. psychologist, continued to chair the Research and Science Education Subcommittee in the House. In 2008, he held two hearings featuring the contributions of social and behavioral science research to national problems. Working closely with Subcommittee staff, COSSA helped plan and shape the hearings.



Mark Weiss, David Segal

On April 24, Subcommittee joined the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, for a joint hearing that examined: "The Role of the Social and Behavioral Sciences in National Security." Witnesses included: Mark Weiss, Director of the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate's Division on Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences; David Segal, head of the Center for Research on Military Organization and Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland; Deputy Undersecretary for Science and Technology (S&T) at the Department of Defense, Andre van Tilborg, and Colonel Martin Schweitzer, an active duty Army officer.



On September 18, the Research Subcommittee's hearing examined the role that the social, behavioral and economic (SBE) sciences play in improving health and well-being and reducing the economic burden of health care. Witnesses included: Lisa Feldman Barrett of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital; John B. Jemmott III of the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of

Pennsylvania; Donald S. Kenkel of Cornell University; and Harold Koenig of Duke University.

L-R Barrett, Jemmott III, Kenkel, Koenig.

COSSA ANNUAL MEETING

COSSA's Annual Meeting took place on November 17 as more than 75 representatives of the Consortium's membership met in Washington, DC amidst the planning for the succession of President-elect Barack Obama and his new team. The other backdrop for the meeting was the continuing economic uncertainty and volatility. COSSA President Susan Cutter presided over the meeting.

James Thurber on the 2008 Election



James Thurber

The meeting began with James Thurber, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University, focusing on whether the election of Barack Obama and the increased Democratic majorities in the House and Senate would bring significant change to the Federal government.

As with all new Presidents, Thurber began, Obama will have a honeymoon period and given the major issues facing the country, there will be great expectations for significant action. Yet, all of the major actors and stakeholders in the various policy subsystems will still play important roles: administrative agencies, White House offices, appropriations subcommittees, authorization subcommittees, specialized media, interest groups, state and local governments, and the tax committees. In many of these new personnel will make a difference. The lobbying and earmarking that has been a vital part of government policymaking will still continue, Thurber claimed, with some of the major excesses of the recent past tampered down under Obama's new ethic rules. Will Washington change? Yes and no, Thurber concluded.

Sidney Winter on the Grim Short-term Economic Outlook



Sidney Winter

Given the extent of the disruption in financial markets, and the global character of the problem, it would hardly be surprising if the current recession were in the league with, or worse than, the worst of the postwar [WWII] period," declared Sidney Winter, Professor Emeritus at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. This means a downturn that could run as long as 16 months, Winter noted, as he assessed the current economic landscape. The real danger, he worried, is that the U.S. imitates Japan in the 1990s, their so-called "lost decade," when deflation created difficulties for that nation's economic recovery.

The solution, according to Winter, is to bring back "Keynesianism" by acknowledging that expansionary Federal fiscal policy has a role to play in fighting a severe recession. Looking past the recession, Winter noted, the U.S. would still face a very large long-run fiscal problem that will become worse. The aging population and the ever-rising costs of health care as well as the need for action on climate change with its rising costs are parts of this problem. There is, Winter concluded, a need for "creative thinking" to devise ways to address these long-term problems.

Gale Mattox on Foreign Policy in the New Administration

Gale Mattox, Professor of Political Science at the U.S. Naval Academy, spoke to the meeting about the changing national security and foreign policy landscape. There are immediate concerns that even a focus on the financial crisis will not alter. In fact, Mattox noted that the economic crisis “fuels instability” in marginal states and heightens the terrorist threat.



Gale Mattox

The Obama doctrine, as it evolves, Mattox suggested, would still focus on national interests, such as homeland security and terrorism, but would also include natural resources and global climate change, the reinvigoration of alliances, and a renewed focus on human rights. In the long-term, Obama’s foreign policy team will have to concern itself with China and the continued growth of its military budget as well as its economic strength and figure out how much push on human rights the U.S. can exert. She also expects Obama to follow the advice of Harvard political scientist Joseph Nye and use “smart power” – a combination of military and economic activities – in conjunction with working with our allies and listening to our enemies to make the U.S. more effective in the world.

Susan Cutter on Recovering from Disasters



Susan Cutter

COSSA’s current President Susan Cutter, Professor of Geography at the University of South Carolina and director of the University’s Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, addressed the luncheon audience on “Disaster Research and Public Policy.” She began by noting that people simplify risk information, people remember what they see, people are poor probability estimators, and there is a certain “dread factor.” She also indicated that there have been significant improvements in risk communication based on social/behavioral research. We also know a lot about evacuation behavior, Cutter declared. Research has concluded that: households evacuate as units and pets are part of that unit; they use private transportation and if they have them, more than one car; people will not use shelters; and distance becomes a protective measure.

Social scientists have also built models to estimate losses in natural disasters and savings from mitigation policies. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other tools, hazards’ researchers can create synthetic data systems that can help first responders and others coping with disasters like the recent wildfires in California. Yet, the nation still has a problem with determining the costs of disasters, Cutter asserted. To solve this problem, Cutter and her colleagues have developed the Spatial Hazards Events and Losses and Databases in the U.S. (SHELDUS). The database now has 460,000 records and is publicly available at www.sheldus.org.

Panel on "Evidence-Influenced Politics"

The final session featured key players of the National Academies' Standing Committee on Social Science Evidence for Use. Michael Feuer, Executive Director for the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE), which has convened the Committee, Catherine Freeman, who is the Committee's Study Director, and Ken Prewitt, the Committee's Chairman, comprised the panel.

In recent years, Feuer noted, following the movement for "Evidence Based Medicine" public policymakers have adopted the notion that the basis for government decisions should include scientific evidence. This has become increasingly apparent as the No Child Left Behind Act used the phrase "scientifically-based research" over 100 times. For Freeman, the systemic improvements in social science infrastructure, the role of intermediary organizations such as think tanks, and the demands of policy makers for well-timed advice, are all part of the milieu for the Committee's charge to determine a research agenda for how the social sciences are utilized.

Prewitt, former director of the U.S. Census Bureau and now a professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, said the Committee is trying to foster research activities to answer the age-old question of whether and how social science research influences policy. There is clearly, what Prewitt called "seepage" of ideas and research results. However, as social science becomes more complex and sophisticated how do these results "energize" policy questions, he asked. In addition, Prewitt noted the government's appetite for social/behavioral information and data and their willingness to create special activities like the Census research data centers to help scientists. Recognizing that policy making includes a strong dose of political considerations, Prewitt claimed that "evidence-based policy" should not be the goal, but rather "evidence-influenced politics."



Michael Feuer and Catherine Freeman



Ken Prewitt

ADVOCACY ROUTINES

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Met regularly with David Lightfoot, the Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE). Also met with the SBE's Division Directors and Program Officers. Participated in the SBE Advisory Committee meeting.

Provided testimony to the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee on NSF's FY 2009 budget. Met with key staff of the Appropriations' Committees regarding that budget. Succeeded in getting language in the House Appropriations Committee report regarding discrepancies in funding for the research directorates. Joined other groups in the science community to advocate for NSF funding in the Supplemental Appropriations bill.

Met with leadership and key staff of the House Science and Technology Committee and its Subcommittee on Research and Science Education regarding NSF funding and activities.

Attended National Science Board meetings and awards dinner. Attended presentation of NSF's FY 2009 budget by NSF Director Arden Bement.

Maintained regular contact with NSF's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs.

The Census Bureau and other Economic Statistics Agencies

Census Bureau Director Steve Murdock spoke to the COSSA Board of Directors and met with the Executive Director.

Remained a member of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee. Received many briefings on the ramp-up to the decennial count and the importance of the American Community Survey (ACS).

Worked with many other census stakeholders to advocate for funding for the Bureau and its programs.

Attended the numerous congressional hearings overseeing the Census Bureau's activities, particularly its difficulties with the contract for the planned handheld computers for non-response, follow-up.

Monitored legislation introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) to make the Bureau an independent agency.

Met with Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) director Steve Landefeld, and Deputy Director Rosemary Marcuss to discuss their agenda and funding needs. Attended the BEA Advisory Committee meeting.

Advocated with others in the data-user community to help save the American Time Use Survey, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics had threatened to abolish.

National Institutes of Health and Other Health Agencies

Deputy Director for Health Policy (DD) continues to co-chair the Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR). Activities included: monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR); meeting regularly with its former director, David Abrams, and current Acting Director, Chris Bachrach, to discuss the Office's activities and how the social and behavioral science community can assist them. The Coalition submitted testimony to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Committees in both House on NIH funding.

Monitored the many hearings conducted by the House and Senate Appropriations Committee regarding spending for the NIH Institutes. COSSA's Deputy Director continues to serve on the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding Steering Committee and participated in the group's annual off-the-record meetings with the 27 NIH institutes and centers directors.

Met with the NIH Deputy Director/Acting NIH Director Raynard Kington regarding a number of issues of concern to the social and behavioral science community.



Jeremy Berg

Attended many NIH institutes and centers advisory committee meetings, including the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). This Institute released a new five-year strategic plan that incorporates the social and behavioral sciences more than it has ever done before into its mission and strategic goals. Assisted NIGMS's staff in identifying participants for a workshop on "Modeling Social Behavior."

Joined the Coalition for Health Services Research in submitting congressional testimony on Comparative Effectiveness Research and requesting additional funding for vital health statistics.

Attended the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Board of Scientific Counselors meetings and joined the Friends of NCHS in submitting comments on the Department of Health and Human Services' Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

Attended numerous hearings held by the Congress on health-related issues, such as the implementation of the NIH Reform Act of 1986, HIV/STD prevention, and the social/behavioral sciences and health.

Monitored the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act that would repeal the NIH mandatory open access requirement.

Education

Monitored policies, research activities, and appointments at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Attended and reported on National Board for Education Sciences meetings.

Monitored the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which Congress finally completed in 2008.

Maintained its membership in the Coalition for International Education (CIE), which advocates for increased appropriations for Title VI international education centers, language resource centers, and other programs. CIE also successfully defended these programs from attack as the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) moved forward.

Advocated for funding for Title VI, IES, the Javits Graduate Fellowship program, and the Thurgood Marshall Legal Education Opportunity grants.

Attended many briefings at Brookings and the Education Sector concerning No Child Left Behind, student learning, education and social mobility, and higher education.

Justice

Met with National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Acting Director David Hagy and Office of Research and Evaluation Directors Thomas Feucht and Marge Zahn to discuss funding and congressional support issues.

Discussed with congressional appropriations' staff implementation of the recommendations of the National Academies' Committee on National Statistics panel regarding improvement of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Succeeded in getting report language in the House version of the Commerce, Justice, Science spending bill.

Executive Director spoke to the National Academies' panel reviewing the NIJ and COSSA continues to monitor the panel's progress. Attended NIJ's annual research and evaluation conference.

Worked with the American Society of Criminology to pursue structural changes to NIJ and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Agriculture and Rural Development

Submitted testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee with the Council on Food and Agriculture Economics (CFARE) regarding funding for agricultural research agencies. Expressed COSSA's concerns about the research provisions of the Farm bill to both the House and Senate.

Met with staff of the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service regarding implementation of the changes in the research structure enacted in the Farm bill. Met with the Administrator of the Economic Research Service. Attended the meeting of the National Research Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. Executive Director spoke to the ESCOP Social Science Committee to discuss alternative funding sources for research on rural America.

Homeland Security

COSSA submitted testimony and advocated for increased funding for the University Programs and Human Factors accounts in the FY 2009 budget of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate. COSSA worked with Rep. David Price (D-NC), chair of the DHS Appropriations Subcommittee, and his staff on this effort.

Human Research Protection and Other Ethical Issues

The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs Inc., of which COSSA is a founding member, continues to persuade universities and other research entities to submit to voluntary accreditation of their human participants' research protection plan. Steve Smith of the California Western School of Law is the COSSA Representative to the AAHRPP Board.

Maintained its concern with the Federal government's activities regarding the protection of human participants in research, including attending the meetings of the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections.

Met with staff of Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) to discuss her proposed legislation regarding Human Research Protection. In a follow-up letter COSSA expressed its concerns with the proposed bill's impact on social and behavioral research.

Participated in a workshop on Nanotechnology's ethical, legal, and social implications and consulted with the House Science and Technology Committee on the reauthorization of the National Nanotechnology Initiative.

Other Enhancing Diversity in Science Activities

The Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in Science (CEDS) has evolved from the planning committee for the February 28 retreat. One of the recommendations from the meeting and a possible next step is to draft a "support for diversity" statement that organizations across the spectrum of science, education, and the public could support. A number of agencies and organizations have expressed an interest in participating in such collaboration.

Participated in workshops by the National Health Policy Forum regarding Diversifying the Health Policy Workforce, including identifying individuals to fill staff positions in Congress.

Served on the planning committee for a meeting following up the May 2007 National Academies' Workshop: *Understanding Interventions That Encourage Minorities to Pursue Research Careers*. The Deputy Director served as a moderator for the May 2-4, 2008, *2nd Annual Conference on Understanding Interventions that Encourage Minorities to Pursue Research Career*, in Atlanta.

Participated in the 3rd annual SBE Alliances conference held at the CUNY Graduate Center. The Deputy Director provided an overview of the February 28 meeting and moderated a session on partnerships with disciplinary associations.

Attended the NSF's science of broadening participation meeting with senior social scientists in all disciplines whose research could be applied to this issue.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS

Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Needs, March 31, 2008.

Sponsored by CAHT-BBSR with a multitude of co-sponsors.



Elizabeth J. Clark, Director, National Association for Social Workers; Robert Croyle, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Jessie Gruman, President, Center for the Advancement of Health.

Violent Crime: What's Happening and Why? Research Results from the National Consortium on Violence Research, April 4, 2008.

Co-sponsored with the National Consortium on Violence Research



Honorable Andrew Sonner, Judge of Maryland Court of Special Appeals (retired); Richard Rosenfeld, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Daniel Nagin, Carnegie Mellon University; Alex Piquero, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY; Alfred Blumstein, Carnegie Mellon University and Director, National Consortium on Violence Research

COSSA AND THE COMMUNITY

COSSA Washington UPDATE remains our major tool of communication. The electronic-only document has expanded its coverage of events in Washington affecting social and behavioral science research and other aspects of science policy. It is sent to over 1,700 people at universities, on Capitol Hill, in the Federal Agencies, and social and behavioral scientists in the Washington community and overseas. The newsletter continues to receive praise from social scientists and non-social scientists alike for its coverage of science policy issues. The annual budget analysis issue examines over 50 agencies supporting social and behavioral science research and remains a key reference for many people. In addition, COSSA staff remains a source for the science press, both background and on the record.

Continued active participation in the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). Encouraged COSSA members to participate in the CNSF exhibition.



Lauren Krivo, Ohio State University, Hon. David Price, U.S. House of Representatives, Howard Silver, COSSA, and Ruth Peterson, Ohio State University, at the American Sociological Association's booth at the CNSF Exhibition, June 25.

Participated in many national coalitions to increase funding for social and behavioral research related to health including: the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding, the Friends of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Friends of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coalition, Friends of the National Center for Health Statistics, the Genome Action Coalition, and the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition.

Deputy Director served as a member of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding Steering Committee and served on the selection panels for NIH's Council of Public Representatives and the AAAS Fellowship program.

Maintained good relations with the Division on Behavioral and Social Science and Education (DBASSE) at the National Academies. Attended a number of Board and Committee meetings. Met with Executive Director Michael Feuer.

Joined with a number of other scientific societies in an effort to encourage scientists to run for public office. A workshop attended by over 100 people was held in May.

The Executive Director published "The Social Sciences and a New Administration" in the Sept/Oct 2008 issue of *SOCIETY*.

CONSTITUENCY RELATIONS

Executive Director gave the plenary address at the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) meeting in Las Vegas in March

The Executive Director spoke on two panels at the Rural Sociological Society meeting in Manchester, NH. He also participated on a panel on education issues at the Association of American Geographers meeting in Boston. COSSA staff also attended the annual meetings of the Association of American Law Schools, the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and the American Psychological Association.



SSSA President Harold Bass and Howard Silver

COSSA staff attended the AERA's Office of Information Affairs Policy Conference, and its Policy Forum luncheons co-sponsored with the Institute for Educational Leadership.

Executive Director spoke to the organizing meeting of the Consortium of Social Science Research Institutes. Executive Director attended the awards dinner and policy conference of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences (AAPSS) in Philadelphia.

Robert Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities, met with the COSSA Executive Committee.

Executive Director attended 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Howard University Graduate School. Staff met with many representatives of COSSA's Member Organizations, Universities, and Centers and Institutes.



Standing Silver, Sally Hillsman, American Sociological Association. Sitting Florence Bonner, Howard University, Walter Allen, UCLA, Patricia Hill Collins, University of Maryland, at Howard University Celebration.

At the end of 2008, COSSA consisted of 17 Governing Members, 24 Member Organizations, 58 Universities, and 13 Centers and Institutes. In 2008, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Georgetown University and the Society for Behavioral Medicine joined the Consortium. In addition, Columbia University returned after a year's hiatus.

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) began in the late 1960s as an informal group of social science associations that met to exchange information and discuss common problems. In May 1981, the disciplinary associations, responding to disproportionately large budget cuts proposed by the new Reagan Administration for the social and behavioral sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF), used the informal COSSA collaboration to establish a Washington-based advocacy effort. Successful in mitigating the budget cuts, COSSA was incorporated in 1982 as a 501(c)(6) organization by ten disciplinary-based social/behavioral science associations.

That same year, COSSA's Founding Members decided to invite other associations to become Affiliates of the organization, and universities and research institutes to become Contributors. In 2003, this nomenclature was changed to Governing Members, Membership Organizations, Universities, and Centers and Institutes. COSSA also encouraged some of the former Affiliates to enhance their status to Governing Members, and eight groups have done so. At the end of 2008, the Consortium had 17 Governing Members, 24 Membership Organizations, 58 Universities, and 13 Centers and Institutes.



Susan Cutter and Howard Silver

The Board of Directors consists of two representatives from each of the 17 Governing Members, and at-large members selected to represent other segments of the Consortium's constituency. COSSA's Executive Director serves as an ex officio member of the Board. The Board meets annually, usually in the fall, to approve the COSSA budget and to set policy. In 2008, Susan Cutter of the University of South Carolina completed her two-year term as COSSA's President. She will be replaced by Aletha Huston, Professor of Child Development at the University of Texas at Austin, in 2009.

The Executive Committee consists of the executive officers, or their designees, of the Governing Members and COSSA's Executive Director, ex officio. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss COSSA's activities. In 2008, Michael Brintnall completed his second term as Chair of the Executive Committee. Sally Hillsman, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, will take over in 2009. In 2008 three new members joined the Executive Committee, Susan Prager, Executive Director, Association of American Law Schools, Alyson Reed, Executive Director, Linguistic Society of America, and Scott Keeter, Pew Research Center, representing the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

As an advocacy group, COSSA must comply with the new requirements under the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. COSSA submits its lobbying forms four times a year. COSSA has determined that it spends about one-third of its funds on lobbying. The Consortium's budget for 2008 was approximately \$520,000.

COSSA STAFF

Howard J. Silver, Ph.D., Executive Director



Dr. Silver, COSSA's leader since 1988, is responsible for planning and directing all programs and initiatives of the Consortium and serves as its chief lobbyist. He formerly served COSSA as Associate Director for Government Relations, a position he held from 1983 to 1988. Elected by his science policy colleagues, from 1994 - 2000 he chaired the Coalition for National Science Funding. Dr. Silver was previously a consultant for legislative and political research, a political campaign manager, and a legislative analyst in the Department of Education. He taught political science and public policy at several colleges and universities. He received the Ph.D. in political science from the Ohio State University.

Angela L. Sharpe, Deputy Director for Health Policy.



Angela Sharpe is responsible for lobbying Members of Congress and their staff on health and behavior research, and representing COSSA to executive branch agencies, particularly the Department of Health and Human Services. She joined the COSSA staff in June 1995. She previously served as a legislative assistant to former Rep. Carrie P. Meek (D-FL) and to the late Rep. R. Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA). Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Ms. Sharpe worked for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She earned her Masters in Government from The Johns Hopkins University. She received a B.S. in Industrial Relations and a B.S. in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Pamela L. Pressley, Associate Director for Public Affairs.



Pamela Pressley is responsible for writing and editing COSSA's publications. Ms. Pressley also works closely with Congress and the Executive branch to assist with COSSA's lobbying efforts on issues surrounding health and the Census. She comes to COSSA from Generations United, where she served as the Public Policy Coordinator and Newsletter Editor. Prior to that Ms. Pressley served as the Victims Services Advocate and Family services Associate for the Children's National Medical Center's Child and Adolescent Protection Center. She received her Bachelor's degree from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina and earned a Masters of Social Work from Howard University, with a concentration in community organization, advocacy, and social policy.

La Tosha Lewis, Assistant Director for Government Relations



La Tosha Lewis spends part of her time as COSSA's office administrator and part of her time assisting with COSSA's lobbying efforts. She came to COSSA from the National Humanities Alliance where she assisted with their Humanities Advocacy day. She also served as a government relations assistant at the National Cable and Telecommunications Association and has provided administrative support to a number of non-profits, government relations firms, and political organizations in Washington. She began her Washington career as a policy assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Caucus. Ms. Lewis earned a dual B.A. in political science and advertising from Iowa State University.

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