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COSSA Washington Update

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SENATOR COBURN THREATENS TO ELIMINATE NSF'S POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

As the FY 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill finally reached the Senate floor the week of October 5, a number of amendments threatened to create difficulties for two key government activities important to social and behavioral scientists. One is the Vitter-Bennett amendment on the Census (see below) and the other an amendment to prohibit the National Science Foundation (NSF) from spending funds to support its political science program. Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) is responsible for the latter.

Coburn in an explanation for his amendment argues that NSF's "political program siphons resources away from research that promises greater scientific discoveries with real world benefits." He notes that NSF has spent \$91.3 million over the last ten years on political 'science.' He claims that this amount could have been directed towards the study of biology, chemistry, geology, and physics; "real fields of science in which new discoveries can yield improvements in the lives of everyone."

The Senator attacks the American National Election Studies (ANES) and asserts that "Americans who have an interest in electoral politics can turn to CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, the print media, and a seemingly endless number of political commentators on the internet who pour over this data..." He also cites NSF funding for The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer for the convention coverage and grants to Paul Krugman, the New York Times "liberal political commentator,"

as additional wastes of money. Of course, Krugman is an economist and, as he pointed out in his blog, received NSF funding from the economics program over 25 years ago for his research on international trade that would bring him the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics.

Speaking of Nobel Prizes, on October 12, the Swedish Academy announced that one of this year's winners of the Economics Prize was political scientist Elinor Ostrom of Indiana University. Ostrom has received NSF political science program support for her research on economic governance and politics of the commons work.

Political scientists and other social and behavioral scientists, organized by the American Political Science Association and COSSA, as well as the higher education community, led by the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, have responded to Coburn's attack and proposed amendment with letters and phone calls.

Sen. Coburn expects to propose his amendment on the Senate floor on Tuesday, October 13 when the Senate resumes consideration of the CJS spending bill.

GROVES UPDATES SENATE PANEL ON 2010 PREPARATIONS; AMENDMENT PROPOSES NEW CENSUS QUESTION ON CITIZENSHIP

The Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, chaired by Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), convened on October 7 for a hearing on the "2010 Census: A Status Update of Key Decennial Operations."

Census Director Robert Groves, in his first appearance before the Committee since his confirmation, provided updates on the Bureau's recent completion of its address canvassing operation; the progress of the Bureau's testing of key decennial information technology and operational systems and the use of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) spending to enhance outreach to hard-to-count communities. Also appearing before the committee were Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Robert Goldenkoff, Director, Strategic Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) who discussed the Bureau's response to program and operational challenges.

"Much work needs to be done by the Bureau to put its operational plans in place and execute them effectively," said Chairman Carper (D-Del.) "Investigations conducted by both GAO and the Inspector General have revealed serious challenges with the contracting and implementation of key information technology systems at the Census Bureau." The GAO named the census to its "high risk list" last year because of: weakness in its Information Technology management; problems with handheld computers used to collect data; and uncertainty over the final cost of the census.

Groves told the panel that the bureau is generally making good progress toward resolving a long list of problems related to the 2010 census, but one thing keeping him up late at night is concern about just how many Americans will fill out their forms, and get them back in the mail as soon as possible. Groves told the panel that the vacancy rate of homes due to the recession, and related home foreclosures, could complicate the effort to have as many people as possible return their census forms in the first round of the count between the first week of April and mid-May.

The Census Bureau continues to develop software to handle the paper-based Non-Response Follow up (NRFU) stage of the census, Groves reported. He explained that this was the part of the Census where the Bureau hoped to use a highly automated system employing the hand-held computers. Last year, census officials decided not to use the handhelds for this portion of the census count because development of the automated system lagged far behind other portions of the census.

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) showed a strong interest in the use of the Internet and web-based tools to speed the count and reduce costs. Groves shared that as recently as five years ago, there was a proposal that a web-based census follow-up pilot program be conducted in college campus dormitories during the 2010 count to test the viability of using new technologies to improve the count. However, he noted that the idea was never formally made a part of next year's population tally. Groves concluded that there was not enough time in preparations for the count to integrate web-based data gathering in the 2010 census. Groves did say however that in August of next year, as the 2010 formal count is concluded, there is a small-scale test planned to gauge the possibility of using the web for the 2020 census.

The Vitter-Bennett Amendment

Also on the agenda of the Senate panel, was the question of citizenship. Sens. David Vitter (R-LA) and Robert Bennett (R-UT) have proposed an amendment to H.R. 2847, the FY 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill, which would require a question on the 2010 census form regarding citizenship status. Their amendment would also prevent states from counting non-citizens when determining population levels. The amendment would also prevent funding from being used to collect census data that does not include a question regarding United States citizenship and immigration status.

"The system is broken and areas of the country with high illegal populations should not be rewarded with greater representation in Congress" said Bennett, a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs committee. "The decennial census is an overwhelming and extremely expensive undertaking and it must be done right." The amendment is based on the [Fairness in Representation Act](#), introduced by Bennett last month.

In their remarks explaining the amendment, Sens. Vitter and Bennett suggested that the ongoing American Community Survey (ACS), which replaced the census long form, already includes questions that distinguish whether respondents are in the country legally or not. However, the ACS, implemented nationwide in 2005 and sent to roughly three million addresses a year, only asks respondents whether they are U.S. citizens and if they were born in the United States or naturalized; it does not ask for any further information about legal status.

The Census Project group, a collaboration of advocacy organizations interested in a fair and accurate decennial census, including COSSA, is concerned that the Vitter-Bennett amendment would stop the 2010 Census in its tracks and prevent the forms from being mailed next spring. In addition, the Census Project is also concerned this move would prevent congressional reapportionment after 2010 and redistricting of congressional and state legislative districts. The group fears that ultimately, the Vitter-Bennett amendment would waste \$7 billion in research, planning, and preparation that has occurred for Census 2010. These fears were also expressed in an October 12 letter signed by seven former U.S. Census Bureau directors: Vincent Barabba, Bruce Chapman, Barbara Everitt Bryant, Kenneth Prewitt, Charles Louis Kincannon, and Steven Murdock.

The vote on the amendment is scheduled for October 13.

PRESIDENT OBAMA VISITS NIH; ANNOUNCES \$5 BILLION IN RECOVERY ACT RESEARCH GRANTS



On September 30, after touring the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus and hearing about the "extraordinary groundbreaking research" the agency is supporting, President Barack Obama announced that \$5 billion in Recovery Act funding had provided support for approximately 12,000 grants, "the single largest boost to biomedical research in history." Reportedly, more than 1,800 of the Recovery Act grant recipients have never previously held a "major NIH grant."

Obama explained that he was at the agency to discuss "our nation's commitment to research," acknowledging to the nearly 450 NIH employees attending the announcement that "the work [they] do is not easy. It takes a great deal of patience and persistence. But it holds incredible promise for the health of our people and the future of our nation and our world." The President also pointed out that despite the agency's distinction of being "at the forefront of medical invention and innovation, helping save countless lives and relieve untold suffering, ... in recent years we've seen our leadership slipping as scientific integrity was at times undermined and research funding failed to keep pace."

The Recovery Act investment in NIH "will save jobs...and create new jobs." "It's not just about creating make-work jobs; it's about creating jobs that will make a lasting difference for our future," Obama insisted. "The goal has been to rescue the economy at the same time as we're laying a new foundation for lasting economic growth...We can only imagine the new discoveries that will flow from the investments we make today." Obama also recognized the role of universities and research institutions and stated that "we are going to keep on providing the support you need. The American people are looking forward to next set of discoveries that all of you are working on today," he concluded.

He was joined on the stage by Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and NIH Director Francis Collins. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA), and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director (OSTP) John Holdren attended the announcement. COSSA's Deputy Director for Health Policy, Angela Sharpe joined other major stakeholders at the NIH campus for the announcement.

Introducing Obama as “scientist-in-chief,” Collins declared the day “remarkable” and noted that the agency’s 19,000 employees were “grateful” for a President “who values science, respects its independence, and understands its huge potential for improving Americans’ lives.” Collins explained that for the last six weeks, he had reviewed hundreds of the grant summaries, which “propose some of the most innovative and creative directions for research” that he has ever seen. “You see, this unprecedented NIH Recovery and Discovery program is not just doubling the recipe. We’re investigating new problems with powerful new tools and looking at old problems from entirely new perspectives,” said Collins.

A video of the President at NIH can be viewed at: <http://videocast.nih.gov/Summary.asp?File=15315>.

USDA LAUNCHES NEW RESEARCH AGENCY AND NEW SCIENCE VISION; HOUSE PANEL LOOKS AT FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION; FY 2010 SPENDING BILL TO PRESIDENT



Rajiv Shah

On October 8, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and with it a new vision for research and science in agriculture. In accordance with the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, NIFA replaces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

At the launch, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack declared that the goal of NIFA “was to truly transform the field of science” at USDA. He pronounced that “I want USDA science to focus most of its resources on accomplishing a few, bold outcomes with great power to improve human health and protect our environment.”

He laid out five objectives for that science: 1) Keep American agriculture competitive while ending world hunger; 2) Support our ability to improve nutrition and end child obesity; 3) Support our efforts to radically improve food safety for all Americans; 4) Secure America’s energy future; and 5) Make us better stewards of America’s environment and natural resources.

The Farm Bill also established the position of Chief Scientist at USDA. Vilsack announced that Rajiv Shah, Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics will fill that position (for Shah’s background see Update, [May 4, 2009](#)). To lead NIFA, the Administration has selected Roger Beachy, President of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.



Roger Beachy

To accentuate the upgrading of USDA research, Presidential Science Adviser and head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy John Holdren also spoke at the launch. He praised the Department’s “bold and important focus on science,” and indicated “USDA will be at the table,” in the formulation and implementation of President Obama’s “science strategy.”

NIFA’s structure includes five entities: 1) an Institute of Food Production and Sustainability; 2) an Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment; 3) an Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition; 4) an Institute of Youth and Community Development; and 5) a Center for International Programs.

Another emphasis in the new regime was partnerships with other scientific agencies. To accentuate this goal, also participating in the launch were: Food and Drug Commissioner Margaret Hamburg; National Science Foundation Acting Deputy Director Cora Marrett; the National Institutes of Health’s Director of Extramural Research Sally Rockey; Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Kerri-Ann Jones; and Under Secretary of Energy Kristina Johnson.

Since Vilsack, Holdren, Shah, and Beachy all appeared to focus their remarks on the agendas of the first three institutes, COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver inquired as to the focus of the Youth and Community Development Institute. Beachy responded that this Institute would concern itself with 4H as part of enhancing youth development and preparing the next generation of agricultural scientists, and the Extension Service.

House Panel Examines Implementation of 2008 Farm Bill Research Provisions

The previous week on September 30, the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research, chaired by Rep. Tim Holden (D-PA), held a hearing on the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill's research provisions.

Undersecretary Shah was the lead witness, but D.C. Coston, Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension also testified on behalf of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and Joseph Layton, a member of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREE) Advisory Board, testified on behalf of that body and the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research.

Holden noted the upcoming launch of NIFA and the importance of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), which replaced the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program. His goal was to streamline research to save dollars, while assuring that the integrity of the research remains intact and that innovation thrives.

Shah discussed a number of the provisions of the Farm Bill that USDA had already implemented. These included the appointment of a Chief Scientist, the transformation of CSREES into NIFA, the awarding of grants in the Specialty Crop Initiative, the establishment of AFRI and its six categories of research, including Agricultural Economics and Rural Initiatives, and an expanded food and nutrition education program.

The Undersecretary also promised to "broaden the tent" of agricultural research programs to include consumer groups and others. He also commented that the research supported by NIFA would be "integrated and problem oriented." The commitment to working with partners in the federal government, such as NIH, was also reiterated. He also said the Farm Bill was "a wake up call to do things differently." NIFA would also focus on long-term, large grants and would expand private-public partnerships. This approach was a key to much of the work Shah did in his previous position at the Gates Foundation. He also noted that the Administration was committed to implementing the provision of the Farm Bill that called for doubling AFRI's funding in five years.

Another part of the research provisions of the Farm Bill called for the development of a "Road Map" for planning agricultural research. In response to a question from Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE) about the input of the NAAREE Advisory Board into the production of the Road Map, Shah told the panel that the Road Map "was coming shortly."

Coston discussed what he called "the unfinished agenda," which included NIFA-related activities, such as funding and structure as well as keeping the commitment to significantly increase AFRI funding. Layton, a former soybean farmer whose land on the Maryland Eastern Shore has been transformed into a vineyard, also commented on funding, saying: "We are not investing enough in [Research Extension and Economics] to enable researchers to provide the answers I need" as a working farmer.

Congress Clears for President 2010 Agriculture and Rural Development Spending Bill

The FY 2010 Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations bill became the second spending bill that Congress has cleared for the President. The Senate passed the conference report on October 8 following House passage the previous day.

The bill provides \$82.5 million for Economic Research Service (ERS), an increase of \$3 million over FY 2009 funding. This increase includes \$1.8 million for research on the economics of environmental service markets and policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Funding for the Organic Production and Market Data Initiative is maintained at not less than \$500,000. The conference agreement allocates \$161.8 million for the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), a \$10.2 million boost over FY 2009 funding. The increase includes: \$5.8 million for restoration of the Agricultural Chemical Use Program, \$1.6 million for a data series on bio-energy production and utilization, and \$250,000 to complete the analysis and summary of and to continue data collection related to, the Organic Production Survey.

Hatch Act formula funds received \$215 million for FY 2010, an increase of \$7.9 million above FY 2009. Congress appropriated \$261.5 million for the new Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), \$60 million above last year's funding for the National Research Initiative. Congressionally directed spending, known as earmarks, came to \$105.2 million for FY 2010. These included \$889,000 for the Rural Policies Institute. The Regional Rural Development Centers received \$1.3 million under the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Integrated Activities program.

JOHN LAUB SELECTED TO HEAD NIJ; LAURIE ROBINSON GETS SENATE HEARING



On October 2 President Obama announced his intention to nominate John Laub, Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, College Park, to become the director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Three days later his nomination was officially sent to the Senate. Laub would replace David Hagy, who served until the end of the Bush Administration. Kristina Rose has been Acting NIJ Director since January.

Laub is also an Affiliate Faculty Member in the Department of Sociology at Maryland and a Visiting Scholar in the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard. He was previously a professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts from 1981 to 1998.

The new NIJ Director has served as the President of the American Society of Criminology, which has also made him a Fellow and awarded him the Edwin H. Sutherland Award. He has been the Editor of the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* for five years and currently serves as an Associate Editor of *Criminology*. Laub served for six years as a member of the Committee on Law and Justice of the National Academies of Science.

His areas of research include crime and deviance over the life course, juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice, and the history of criminology. He has published widely including *Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life*, co-authored with Robert Sampson. Also with Sampson, he wrote *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70*, which analyzes longitudinal data from a long-term follow-up study of juvenile offenders from a classic study by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. Both books have won three major awards: The Albert J. Reiss, Jr, Distinguished Book Award from the American Sociological Association's Crime, Law, and Deviance Section, the Outstanding Book Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Michael J. Hindelang Book Award from the American Society of Criminology. In addition Laub has published many research articles in the areas of crime and the life course, juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice, criminal victimization, and the history of criminology.

Laub received his B.A. degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in criminal justice from the State University of New York at Albany.

The Senate must now confirm Laub to his new position.

Robinson Calls for More Criminal Justice Research Funding

On October 7, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the nomination of Laurie Robinson to once again lead the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) as an Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice. Committee Member Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) presided at the hearing, substituting for Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

Robinson's nomination drew strong bipartisan support from Cardin and Ranking Judiciary Committee Member Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), particularly her willingness to return to a job she held during the Clinton Administration. Former Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA) also appeared at the hearing and praised her "extraordinary resume" in a strong endorsement of the nomination (For Robinson's background see Update, [May 18, 2009](#)).

In her written statement Robinson explained her decision to come back. She noted that because of September 11 much has changed since she left nine years ago. "Local police chiefs and sheriffs must not only address crime, but also be vigilant about terrorism," she wrote. "At the same time," she indicated, "jurisdictions are struggling to deal with these challenges on limited budgets." In addition, she expressed the belief "that the field [criminology] has grown more sophisticated in dealing with crime...There is much greater understanding of evidence-based approaches," using tools such as risk assessment and the adoption of 'hot spots' policing.

Asked about her priorities for OJP, Robinson told the Senate that partnerships with the field, particularly State, local and tribal officials, to develop strategies to reduce crime was paramount. She particularly mentioned the current youth violence problem in Chicago.

Another priority, according to Robinson, is to have what we know from science influence those strategies. She announced her intention to create a What Works Clearinghouse to disseminate the best evidence from research and evaluations to criminal justice officials.

To help encourage the production of that science, Robinson told the Senators that there is clearly not enough funding for crime and criminal justice research and data collection. She urged Congress to examine how it allocates funding and asked for \$20 to \$30 million more for this area.

She also emphasized the need for "a system of internal controls and strong accountability to guard against waste, fraud and abuse." In recent years there has been criticism from the Government Accountability Office and Congress concerning the management of funds at OJP.

Cardin closed the hearing by declaring that the Committee would move the nomination out of committee and to the floor as expeditiously as possible.

NSF ANNOUNCES DOD SUPPORTED AWARDS

On October 2, the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced the awards made under a joint NSF/Department of Defense (DOD) research solicitation (see Update, [August 11, 2008](#)). The competition, which NSF called, "Social and Behavioral Dimensions of National Security, Conflict and Cooperation" was part of the Minerva Initiative introduced in speech by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in a speech in April, 2008 (see Update, [April 21, 2008](#)).

DOD and the NSF jointly determined four topic areas for the NSF solicitation: authoritarian regimes, the strategic impact of religious and cultural change, terrorist organizations and ideologies, and new dimensions in national security. The topics address the needs of national security policymakers and the ideals of open academic basic research.

After a long delay and questions raised by the DOD's congressional oversight committees, the Department finally transferred \$8 million to NSF to fund the following proposals, which were reviewed under the regular NSF peer review process. The award recipients and their projects are:

- Rachel Croson (University of Texas - Dallas) and Charles Holt (University of Virginia) - "Behavioral Insights into National Security Issues"
- William Reed (William Marsh Rice University), Charles Holt (University of Virginia), Timothy Nordstrom (University of Mississippi), and David Clark (State University of New York - Binghamton) - "Experimental Analysis of Alternative Models of Conflict Bargaining"
- Patrick Barclay (University of Guelph) and Stephen Bernard (Indiana University) - "Status Manipulating Group Threats, and Conflict Within and Between Groups."
- Stephen Shellman (College of William and Mary), Remco Chang (University of North Carolina - Charlotte), Michael Covington (University of Georgia), Joseph Young (Southern Illinois University - Carbondale), Michael Findley (Brigham Young University) - "Terror, Conflict Processes, Organizations, and Ideologies: Completing the Picture"
- Barbara Geddes (University of California - Los Angeles) and Joseph Wright (Pennsylvania State University) - "How Politics Inside Dictatorships Affects Regime Stability and International Conflict"
- Martha Crenshaw (Stanford University) - "Mapping Terrorist Organizations"
- Cynthia Buckley (University of Texas - Austin) - "People, Power, and Conflict in the Eurasian Migration System"
- Virginia Fortna (Columbia University) - "Strategies of Violence, Tools of Peace, and Changes in War Termination"
- Jaroslav Tir (University of Georgia) - "Avoiding Water Wars: Environmental Security Through River Treaty Institutionalization"
- Laura Razzolini (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Atin Basuchoudhary (Virginia Military Institute) - "Predicting the Nature of Conflict - An Evolutionary Analysis of the Tactical Choice"
- Robert Powell (University of California - Berkeley) - "Fighting and Bargaining over Political Power in Weak States"
- Eli Berman (University of California - San Diego) - "Workshop on the Political Economy of Terrorism and Insurgency"
- Rachel Croson (University of Texas - Dallas) - "Substantive Expertise, Strategic Analysis and Behavioral Foundations of Terrorism" (Workshop)
- Roy Licklider (Rutgers University) - "New Armies from Old: Merging Competing Military Forces after Civil Wars" (Workshop)
- Geoffrey Wiseman (University of Southern California) - "Engaging Intensely Adversarial States: The Strategic Limits and Potential of Public Diplomacy in U.S. National Security Policy"
- J. Craig Jenkins (Ohio State University) - "Deciphering Civil Conflict in the Middle East"

- Jeff Hancock (Cornell University), Arthur Graesser (University of Memphis), and David Beaver (University of Texas - Austin) - "Modeling Discourse and Social Dynamics in Authoritarian Regimes"

The DOD had earlier funded seven other grants as part of the Minerva initiative (see Update, [January 12, 2009](#)). Whether there is another NSF competition remains uncertain. Secretary Gates might be interested, but the hoops the recently concluded competition had to jump through may deter another round.

IES ISSUES GUIDE TO HELP STUDENTS PREPARE FOR COLLEGE

The Scientific Evidence in Education Forums (SEE Forums) held an event on September 29, on the "Pathways to College: Improving Student Access to and Readiness for College."

According to the Department of Education, 90 percent of the fastest growing jobs in the U.S. will require a college degree. Mel Riddle of the National Association of Secondary School Principals cited the ACT Report "The Forgotten Middle" which found that only 20 percent of 8th graders are on target to go to college. Riddle said if we are going to help every student succeed we need to have a plan for every student. He declared that the factory assembly line method of teaching students no longer works. He said schools need to develop customized education plans for every student complete with assessment measures and plans for assisting students who are not on the college track.

To help school districts and high schools increase student access to higher education the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) recently released a Practice Guide entitled "Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What can High Schools Do." The practice guide includes five recommendations. According to the guide schools should: 1) institute a college ready curriculum by the 9th grade that offers students courses that help prepare them for higher education; 2) increase the use of assessments to determine if students are on academically on track for college and to assist students who are not; 3) surround students with adult mentors and peers who can instill in them the importance of academics and support their college going aspirations; 4) assist students in completing the critical steps necessary for college entry; and finally 5) increase families' financial awareness about the true costs of college, and help students apply for financial aid.

The Obama Administration has supported a number of these recommendations through use of 'Race for the Top' funds and the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It has also made it easier for students and their families to apply for aid. A big hurdle in getting students to college is money. There are 16 million students who apply for financial aid each year, and research suggests that many students are confused by the application process. Cecilia Rouse, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisors (CEA), reported that the National Economic Council and the CEA are joining forces to simplify the student aid process. The Administration has a three part plan to simplify the application process. First, the current online version of the application will be streamlined; there will be a 28% reduction in questions on the form. Secondly, applicants will be allowed to have online access to data they have already submitted to the IRS to complete the application, and the new version will eliminate assets questions not currently found on IRS forms. And lastly, the most difficult and often unnecessary questions will be eliminated. The new simplified version of the form will go online in January 2010.

In addition to an easier financial aid application process students will also receive increased Pell Grant funding. This year Congress passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Reasonability Act of 2009. Under the provisions of the Act, the maximum Pell Grant will increase to \$5,550 in 2010 and \$6,900 in 2019. The Act will also lower the interest rate on need-based loans and expand access to Perkins loans.

The IES Practice Guide can be found at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wvc/publications/practiceguides>.

APSA REPORT EXAMINES U.S. STANDING IN THE WORLD

On October 1, one day before the International Olympic Committee rejected U.S. bid to host the 2016 Olympics, the American Political Science Association (APSA) released a Task Force report, "U.S. Standing in the World: Causes, Consequences, and the Future." APSA held a briefing on the report at the National Press Club.

Organized by 2009 APSA President Peter Katzenstein of Cornell University, the Task Force was chaired by Jeff Legro of the University of Virginia. Also speaking at the event were: Victor Cha of Georgetown University; Martha Finnemore of George Washington University, Peter Trubowitz of the University of Texas, Austin; Tod Lindberg of the Hoover Institution, Stanford University; and David Calleo of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Legro noted that the Task Force agreed that standing has two major facets: credibility and esteem. Credibility, according to the report, "refers to the U.S. government's ability to do what it says it is going to do - to 'stand up' for what it believes, and to 'stand against' threats to its interests and ideals." Esteem, "refers to America's stature, or what America is perceived to 'stand for' in the hearts and minds of foreign publics and policymakers." Legro suggested that credibility and esteem can be mutually reinforcing, but they can also be difficult to pursue in tandem.

The Task Force's conclusion (with two dissents, see below) was that U.S. standing "declined dramatically in the past decade...and may American leaders and citizens worry that this decline, despite a recent upturn, may be part of a long-term trend - one that will be hard to reverse."

According to public opinion polls cited in the report and by Cha, U.S. favorability rating across the world had declined precipitously in the ten years from 1999 to 2008, with some upticks in 2009 credited to the election of Barack Obama as President. Although Cha pointed out that in Asia support for the U.S. has grown as a counter-balance to the growth of China, one country where this did not happen was Pakistan. Cha made the point that in Asia the U.S. is viewed as a "provider of goods," both public and private, and therefore remains popular. An example of this, according to Cha was the increase in support for the U.S. in India after the recently negotiated deal on nuclear power.

Finnemore reported on the panel's exploration of U.S. standing in international institutions. Focusing on the United Nations General Assembly, the report demonstrated that agreement with the U.S. on votes there has decreased over the years in almost all regions of the world. She also noted that the current expansion of the G-8 economic group to the G-20 indicates U.S. willingness for greater cooperation, but at a cost of U.S. dilution of power.

Examining domestic views of the U.S.' standing, Trubowitz noted that "Americans are currently unhappy with the country's standing abroad." However, within this broad conclusion are divergent views based on partisanship. The report suggests: "For Republicans, standing seems to evoke hard power's notion of 'resolve,' which favor the credibility side of standing. Democrats appear to emphasize ideas that highlight esteem, such as 'legitimacy' and 'moral standing.'" Further analysis indicates that "where Democrats and Republicans stand on American standing is shaped by which party controls the presidency."

Task Force members Steven Krassner of Stanford and Henry Nau of George Washington University issued a dissent arguing that the U.S. 'standing' in the world has independent consequences for effective diplomacy. Although they agree "that credibility matters," it is for them based on "power and past performance, not on sentiments about the United States." Thus, they cite the sharp drop in U.S. standing during President Reagan's terms that did not deter what they view as a dramatic expansion of U.S. defense capabilities that forced the Soviet Union into an arms race they could not win.

Lindberg agreed with Krassner and Nau about the separation of policy outcomes and standing, but still believed that 'standing' had importance, especially the esteem component. Calleo, on the other hand, suggested he was "uneasy about the implicit isolation of standing from the rectitudes of policy." He also noted that the world has always been more plural than those who would have the U.S. as the lone superpower "trying to dominate every theater."

A short (20 pages) version of the report is available at:
<http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/APSAUSStandingShortFinal.pdf>.

A longer (44 pages) version at: http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/APSA_TF_USStanding_Long_Report.pdf.

NANCY WEINBERG KIDD NEW COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION HEAD

The National Communication Association (NCA), one of COSSA's Governing Members, has appointed Nancy Weinberg Kidd as its next Executive Director. Kidd had been serving as Interim Executive Director since Roger Smitter's departure in early summer.

Kidd came to the NCA in 2008 as the Associate Director for Research Initiatives. Before arriving at NCA, she ran a multimillion-dollar business unit of the Corporate Executive Board providing strategic research to senior executives at the world's leading corporations, including many of the Fortune 500. Prior to that, she started a strategic management consulting group for a Federal government contractor where she developed and managed several large projects that involved strategic planning, performance management, public policy research, and program evaluation services.

Before coming to Washington D.C. area, Kidd served as the Policy Director for the South Florida Workforce Board. At the Workforce Board, she was responsible for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the quasi-governmental non-profit organization's programs and processes, comparing alternatives, and making recommendations for programmatic and managerial change and expansion to most responsibly allocate the \$100 million budget of Federal funds related to employment programs such as welfare and job training.

The new Executive Director spent the first several years of her career working as a Program Officer at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York. She has a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in sociology from Stanford University. She has won awards for academic teaching and research and has received several honors for professional service throughout her career.

MARTHA ZASLOW TO HEAD SRCRD POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

The Society for Research and Child Development, a COSSA Governing Member, has announced that Martha Zaslow will assume the role of Director of the Office for Policy and Communications (OPC) of SRCRD on November 1. The OPC is located in Washington, DC.

Zaslow comes to SRCRD from her position as Vice President for Research and Director of the Early Childhood Program Area at the nonprofit research center, Child Trends. Prior to joining Child Trends, she worked with the Committee on Child Development Research and Public Policy of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, as well as the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development. She also served as a Staff Fellow in the intramural Child and Family Research Section of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

She served on the SRCRD Committee for Policy and Communications from 2003-2005 and co-chaired the Committee from 2005-7. She has served on several child-centered policy committees for other organizations as well. Her research focuses on programs and policies to strengthen the quality of early care and education, professional development of the early childhood workforce, and the measurement of quality in early childhood settings and of children's development in the early years. Zaslow will continue her affiliation at Child Trends as a Senior Scholar as she moves into the OPC position.

Zaslow received her Ph.D. in Personality and Developmental Psychology from Harvard University.

PREVENTING CHILD MALTREATMENT

On October 1, The Center on Children and Families, a joint project between Princeton University and the Brookings Institution, released its latest volume of its journal, the *Future of Children*, which focuses on "Preventing Child Maltreatment." Coinciding with the publication, Brookings held an event to highlight the findings and their public policy implications.

According to a policy brief by Ron Haskins of Brookings and Richard Barth, Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, that accompanies the journal issue, each year more than three million children in the U.S. are investigated for suspected maltreatment and of those 800,000 are identified by state agencies as having been abused or neglected. Sadly, for some children help comes too late; more than 1,500 children die each year as a result of maltreatment.

In another brief accompanying the journal issue, Haskins, Christina Paxson, Senior Editor of the *Future of Children*, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn of Columbia University, focus on the significant role that evidence from rigorous social science research has played in influencing policy on children.

Experts say prevention holds the key to reducing child maltreatment. One of the most widely studied ways to prevent child maltreatment is home visitation programs. Home visits are family based interventions in which trained professionals visit parents in their homes and administer a standard program that can range anywhere from one visit to multiple visits over several months or even years. Despite its proven effectiveness only 15 percent of the families who would benefit from such a program receive home visits.

Chairman Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support has introduced a new bill that would implement President Obama's proposed new initiative that would increase home visitation programs. Only programs that have demonstrated effectiveness would be eligible for funding. The bill would create a new competitive grant program to support voluntary home visits for women and

families with young children. McDermott declared that early intervention and support for low income families is a way to keep families together and prevent future problems; "supporting these programs is really an investment in our future." His bill was endorsed by former Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), who also participated in the event.

Isabel Sawhill, co-director of the Center on Children and Families, and moderator for the event, indicated that if we invest early in prevention programs we will get a payoff for many years in the future. She believes there has been too much emphasis on the foster care system and what we do once kids are in that system, instead of focusing on ways to prevent them from entering that system in the first place.

The Journal's articles identify several things that can be done to help reduce child abuse and neglect, such as using risks factors to create accurate assessments. Researchers have identified five factors which are consistently correlated with maltreatment: the age of the child, race, poverty, parental drug use, and single parenting. By using these risk factors child protective services agencies could better identify families that need help and children that may be at greater risk. The authors also call for rethinking how we deal with families with drug or alcohol abuse problems. Parental addiction alone, they argue, should not be a sufficient reason for removing children from their homes.

David Olds, Director of the Prevention Research Center for Family and Child Health at the University of Colorado at Denver, in 1977 developed a nurse home visitation model designed to help young women take better care of themselves and their babies. The "Olds Model" has transformed into the Nurse-Family Partnership, a nonprofit organization serving more than 20,000 mothers in 20 states across the United States. The model has three key components: implement programs that help prevent bad prenatal behavior such as smoking, drinking and drug use; help parents provide more competent care for their babies in the first years of life; and assist the parents in creating better lives for themselves by providing assistance in finding jobs, becoming financially literate, and family planning. The Olds Model is gaining popularity not only here in the U.S. within the Obama Administration, but also in other countries such as England and Australia.

Child maltreatment is not just a family issue it's a money one too. Chairman McDermott said early intervention programs not only save children and families, but also save money on healthcare spending, drug prevention, and incarceration. Ching-Tung Wang, Principal Researcher at Prevent Child Abuse America, and John Holton, now at the Illinois Division of Mental Health and a former Vice President of Prevent Child Abuse America, estimated that taking into account the costs of case management, administrative services and expenses, services to families and children, foster care, adoption services, hospitalization, mental health care and law enforcement the U.S. spends more than \$33 billion on child abuse and neglect.

To help reduce incidents of child abuse Olds called for translating evidence-based research into programs that can be linked together to help families. If these programs are properly designed and targeted they could help prevent child maltreatment and keep families together. Congress and the Administration are looking to researchers to help create effective programs, McDermott indicated. "We are going to put stuff in place based on evidence. That is a victory for social science that federal programs are starting to be based on evidence," he concluded.

AAHRPP ISSUES FINAL REVISED ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP), of which COSSA is a Founding Member, has issued the final version of the first major revision of its standards in its eight-year history.

AAHRPP is a non-profit organization that works with organizations that conduct human research to raise the level of protection for research participants. Available to organizations worldwide that conduct biomedical, behavioral or social science research involving human participants, the accreditation program utilizes a voluntary, peer-driven educational model.

To gain accreditation organizations must demonstrate that they have built extensive safeguards into every level of their research operation and that they adhere to the high ethical standards. AAHRPP has now accredited a total of 194 organizations, representing more than 930 entities.

In the new version of the standards, AAHRPP streamlined the number and increased flexibility in how to interpret them, even as it added or strengthened standards on global research, conflict of interest, community-based research, and data and safety monitoring. Overall, AAHRPP has reduced the number of standards from 22 to 15, and the number of elements, from 77 to 60.

As part of AAHRPP's own quality improvement initiative, it conducted a comprehensive review of the standards, something that will occur regularly. With government scrutiny of human research increasing, the urging of behavioral and social scientists to make human research protection meaningful to their research, and industry moving more clinical trials into developing countries, AAHRPP responded by strengthening, updating and streamlining its standards.

While none of the new standards or revisions reflects major changes in the requirements for accreditation, the revisions do reflect a major regrouping of the standards, providing a more logical framework for a human research protection program (HRPP) and better definition of the primary roles and responsibilities of the entities that comprise a HRPP.

AAHRPP began developing a set of Proposed Revised Accreditation Standards at the end of 2008, and presented them for public comment on June 1, 2009. When the comment period ended on July 30, 2009, AAHRPP used those comments to develop the Final Revised Accreditation Standards issued today.

Organizations wishing to apply for accreditation from now through February 28, 2010, may follow either the Final Revised Accreditation Standards or the Current Accreditation Standards in effect before October 1, 2009. Beginning March 1, 2010 all new applicants will follow the Final Revised Accreditation Standards, which will then be referred to simply as the AAHRPP Accreditation Standards.

The access the Final Revised Accreditation Standards as well as the current accreditation standards go to: <http://www.aahrpp.org>. A version of the Evaluation Instrument for Accreditation based on the Final Revised Accreditation Standards, which organizations use to apply the standards to their own HRPPs, is also available on the Web site.

AASRO JOINS COSSA

COSSA's newest member is the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). Members of AASRO represent survey organizations from both private and public universities, in every region of the United States. They share a common mission to provide professional, scientific survey expertise and infrastructure to researchers inside and outside of academe. COSSA looks forward to working with the AASRO's members on matters of mutual interest.

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