

# COSSA

*Consortium of Social Science Associations*



Advocating

for the

Social and Behavioral Sciences

for Over 25 Years

**2009 Annual Report**

# CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

## 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  
Population Association of America  
Rural Sociological Society  
Society for Research in Child Development

## MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Association for Agricultural Education  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
Association of Research Libraries  
American Psychosomatic Society  
Council on Social Work Education  
Eastern Sociological Society  
International Communication Association  
Justice Research and Statistics Association

Midwest Sociological Society  
National Association of Social Workers  
North American Regional Science Council  
North Central Sociological Association  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Behavioral Medicine  
Society for Research on Adolescence  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association

## COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Arizona State University  
Brown University  
University of California, Berkeley  
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 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  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton 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  
University of Texas, Brownsville  
Texas A & M University  
Tulane University  
Vanderbilt University  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
Washington University in St. Louis  
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 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 fifth presidential administration in COSSA's history arrived on January 20, 2009 faced with what has been called "the worst economic situation since the Great Depression." President Obama had campaigned on "change we can believe in," but soon faced daunting challenges to his agenda.



As part of the response to the economic catastrophe, the Administration pushed through Congress the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). With the strong support of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and the members of Congress who had help pass the America COMPETES Act in 2008, funding for scientific research became an important part of ARRA. COSSA joined many others in the scientific community advocating successfully for the inclusion of \$3 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), \$10.2 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research. These additional funds provided researchers, including social and behavioral scientists, unique opportunities to garner support for their projects. In addition, the Science of Science and Innovation Policy program at NSF took advantage of the natural experiment created by ARRA to support investigations of how the extra funding impacts science and innovation policy.

As is the case with any new Administration, the presentation of its initial budget did not occur until late spring. This pushed the regular appropriations process later into the year, and once again Congress did not finish the spending bills for fiscal year 2010 by its start on October 1. During congressional consideration of these bills, COSSA and the social and behavioral sciences faced renewed challenges to the legitimacy of federal funding for its research.

When the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill came before the House of Representatives in July, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) proposed an amendment to rescind or prohibit NIH from spending money on three currently-funded, peer-reviewed grants that focus on HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable populations. The Coalition for the Protection of Research, a COSSA/American Psychological Association co-chaired group made up of social/behavioral science, biomedical, and other groups interested in protecting peer review, rallied the community against the Issa amendment. Rather than provoke a debate on the House floor on the substantive merits of the research, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. David Obey (D-WI) simply accepted the amendment. His intention was to eliminate the amendment later in the process during the House-Senate conference on the bill. That occurred and the grants were protected.

In October, when the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill finally reached the Senate floor, Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) called for the elimination of the political science program at NSF. COSSA again swung into action organizing and coordinating the response to the amendment. COSSA helped to mobilize the American Political Science Association, other COSSA members, the higher education and others in the science community. COSSA worked with Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and her staff and the NSF Office of Legislative and Public Affairs to develop the arguments to defend the political science program. The awarding of the Nobel Prize in Economics to political scientist Elinor Ostrom proved to be a fortuitous event that became part of the successful argument that defeated Coburn's amendment. In addition, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates' proclaimed support for the importance of the social/behavioral sciences also helped Senator Mikulski convince her colleagues to reject Coburn's amendment.

With the decennial census a year away, COSSA spent considerable time in 2009 concerned with the preparations for the 2010 count. With the resignation of Census Bureau director Steve Murdock in December 2008, early in 2009 the most important focus was on getting a new director appointed. COSSA, along with many other stakeholders, pushed for an early appointment by the new administration. With the nomination of Robert Groves in April, COSSA's efforts shifted toward getting him confirmed by the Senate. That finally happened in July and Groves appeared at the COSSA Annual Meeting in November.

COSSA also joined many others in opposing an unsuccessful amendment sponsored by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill that would have made it more difficult to count all Americans and added large costs to the already most expensive decennial count in history. As a member of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, COSSA has also been part of the process providing advice to the Bureau on its 2010 plans.

At the National Institutes of Health, COSSA's long standing relationship with Raynard Kington (he spoke at a COSSA Congressional briefing in 1996) allowed for continuing consultations on the role of the social/behavioral sciences there. Kington, who served as NIH's Acting Director until the confirmation of new Director Francis Collins in September, and who then returned to his former post as Deputy Director, was instrumental in the development of the COSSA-supported OppNet initiative, which will provide \$120 million of NIH funds to support social/behavioral research funding over the next five years.

Through its continued leadership of the Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Science Research (CAHT-BSSR), COSSA continued to interact with NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR). Although the Office continues to search for a permanent director, Christine Bachrach spent 2009 as Acting Director and helped COSSA present a major exhibition on Capitol Hill of OBSSR-related research.

At NSF a major transition occurred with the departure of David Lightfoot as Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) after four years. The culmination of Lightfoot's tenure was the publication of *Social, Behavioral and Economic Research in the Federal Context*, which emerged in the final days of the Bush Administration from the inter-agency National Science and Technology Council. COSSA joined the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences in sponsoring a briefing on the report on Capitol Hill, which included opening remarks from two social/behavioral scientist members of the House, Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA) and Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL).

The disappointment over Lightfoot's departure soon turned to delight with the arrival in November of Myron Gutmann, former COSSA President and director of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, as the new head of the SBE directorate. As part of its traditional advocacy for SBE, COSSA testified in support of NSF's budget increase to the Congress.

New personnel, or more accurately, the return of old leadership at the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in the person of new Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, has also led to a renewal of support for research and statistics there and an emphasis on evidence-based crime policy. One of the new Administration's proposals was to include a set-aside of OJP program funds for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). COSSA strongly supported in submitted testimony to the Appropriations Committee the set-aside as well as the large increase for BJS to help revitalize the National Crime Victimization Survey. Late in the year, the Administration nominated two distinguished scientists, John Laub and James Lynch to lead NIJ and BJS respectively.



As of this writing, they both continue to await Senate confirmation.

The set-aside notion also occurred to the new Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Shaune Donovan as a way to implement the recommendations of a National Academies' report to revitalize the moribund Office of Policy Development and Research (OPD&R). Former USC Professor and a member of the Academies' panel Raphael Bostic took over OPD&R and came to the COSSA Annual Meeting to explain his plans for reinvigorating that office.

The new Administration also committed itself to implementing the recommendations of the 2008 Farm Bill to reemphasize science at the Department of Agriculture. The Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service became the National Institute on Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and enhanced resources went to the competitive grants research program now renamed the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. COSSA attended the NIFA launch and pressed its new leadership to support the social science research agenda on rural America.

The Department of Education continued with the nation's efforts to reform America's schools. Part of the Department's strategy is to place a renewed emphasis on research, data collection, analysis, and dissemination, and what works. The new director of the Institute of Education Sciences, John Easton, came to the COSSA Annual meeting to participate in a panel on what is needed in education research.

In addition, in 2009 the Department and the Coalition for International Education (CIE), to which COSSA belongs, celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the enactment of the National Defense Education Act (albeit a year late) and its Title VI provisions that have provided funding for students to receive exposure to international learning and foreign languages. COSSA was part of the planning committee for the CIE event.

COSSA continued its activities in the Human Subjects protection area in 2009. The Consortium remained a founding member of the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Plans, heard from Jerry Menikoff, head of the Office of Human Research Protection at the Department of Health and Human Services at a COSSA Executive Committee meeting, and consulted with Rep. Diana DeGette's (D-CO) staff on her legislation regarding this subject.

The Consortium's commitment to enhancing diversity in science, which flourished with a retreat in 2008, continued in 2009 with a briefing on Capitol Hill and planning for future activities through the COSSA-led Collaboration on Enhancing Diversity in Sciences (CEDS).

As always, 2009 saw transitions in the leadership of COSSA's members, with three new people joining the Executive Committee. On a sad note, COSSA's first President, Dell Hymes, passed away. On a happier note, COSSA attended the 60th Anniversary celebration of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan and the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Late in the year, the Population Association of America, which joined COSSA in 1982 as an Affiliate, voted to elevate its status to Governing Member in 2010.

The economic downturn has significantly affected COSSA and its members in 2009. So with more than the usual gratitude, I thank our supporters for their continued commitment to COSSA and its advocacy role for the social and behavioral sciences. I hope we can remain worthy of your support through both the lean and the more prosperous times to come.

**Howard J. Silver**

**Executive Director**

**February 2010**

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2009, COSSA once again had to defend social and behavioral science from attacks by members of Congress. A new administration with its new leadership in key agencies always means a whole new cycle of getting-to-know you activities. As always, funding of federal agencies and programs important to social and behavioral science research involves a congressional budget process that has remained confounding, but still can produce positive results.

### **Defending Social Science Programs and Grants**

The current political climate has again produced attacks on individual grants at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and on an entire program at NSF. COSSA organized and led the response to both attacks. Using the COSSA/American Psychological Association-led Coalition to Protect Research the Deputy Director coordinated opposition to the amendment by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) defunding three peer-reviewed, already-awarded NIH grants during House consideration of the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. David Obey (D-WI), avoiding a floor debate and vote, accepted the amendment; preferring a strategy to eliminate it during the House-Senate conference on the bill. This occurred during consideration of what became the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act passed late in the year.



**Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)**

When the FY 2010 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations (CJS) bill reached the Senate floor in September, Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) proposed an amendment to eliminate the political science program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Working with the American Political Science Association, other COSSA members, the Higher Education Community, NSF's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, and Senator Barbara Mikulski's (D-MD) appropriations committee staff, COSSA organized opposition to the amendment. Mikulski, who chairs the Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee that recommends funding levels for NSF, made a strong defense of the Foundation's funding of political science research. In her defense of the program, Mikulski made reference to Elinor Ostrom, Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, who had recently been announced as one of the winners of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics.

Mikulski told her colleagues: "Since 1974, Dr. Ostrom has received more than 20 grants at NSF, and these grants helped her do her fieldwork all over the world in relation to the economic activity of people and communities. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences thought enough of her work to award her the Nobel Prize, but long before they heard of her in Stockholm, the National Science Foundation had heard of her and helped her with her award-winning research."



Mikulski also noted that Secretary of Defense Robert Gates had cited the importance of social science research to the nation's security. With Department of Defense funding NSF had made awards to investigate data sources and institutions that affect national security. Most of those grants were awarded in the political science program. The Senate rejected Coburn's amendment.

COSSA also joined with Census Stakeholder groups to oppose the amendment proposed by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) to add a question about citizenship to the 2010 Census. Joining eight former Census Directors as well as current director Robert Groves, COSSA urged the Senate to defeat the amendment. The amendment's opponents made the argument that changing the questionnaire less than a year before the Census begins would add significant costs to the decennial and would create additional difficulties in hard-to-count areas. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) succeeded in preventing the Vitter amendment from coming to a vote.



**Elinor Ostrom, Political Scientist,  
Nobel Winner in Economics**

## **The New Administration**

The Obama Administration has proclaimed its belief in science, technology, and innovation as keys to America's future. The President spoke to the National Academy of Sciences' meeting in late April and declared: "Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been before." At the Committee on National Statistics seminar in May, OMB Director Peter Orszag and Presidential Science Adviser John Holdren declared the importance of the social and behavioral sciences to the Administration's activities.



**John Holdren, President Obama's  
Science Adviser**

The Administration proposed significant funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), of which the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate got its share. President Obama's FY 2010 budget proposal reinvigorated research in many of the Departments. His appointments to the key research and data positions in those Departments have been encouraging. COSSA has worked with many of these leaders to discuss their agendas and support their budgets. Some participated in the COSSA Annual Meeting. Many social and behavioral scientists are working in and with the Obama Administration on climate change, energy, economic recovery, health reform, and other priorities. A number of the previous Administration initiatives such as the Science of Science and Innovation Policy have remained and prospered.

## **ARRA and Appropriations**

COSSA joined with the rest of the science community in advocating for the inclusion of science in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). The Act gave considerable funding for Comparative Effectiveness Research at NIH, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In COSSA's submitted testimony to the Appropriations Committees, we urged Congress to increase the AHRQ budget, so that the ARRA funds would supplement the budget and not supplant it.

Once again, the regular FY 2010 appropriations process finished after the fiscal year began. Early in 2009, COSSA submitted testimony to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee focused on funding for NSF, the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NSF received a significant increase. The Census Bureau received all the funding requested to finish preparation for the decennial count in 2010. BEA got part of its large proposed boost. The BJS received a major increase to help implement the revitalization of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), called for in the National Academies' report *Ensuring the Quality, Credibility, and Relevance of U.S. Justice Statistics* and strongly advocated for by COSSA over the past few years. In addition, Congress accepted an Administration-proposed and COSSA-supported one-percent set-aside of Office of Justice Programs funds for research, evaluation, and statistics.

The Agriculture and Rural Development spending bill included significant increases for the competitive grants program, now called the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. This is part of a major overhaul of the Department's research, education, and extension operations required by the 2008 Farm bill. COSSA monitored the implementation of the overhaul and participated in the official launch of the new structure, the National Institute on Food and Agriculture, in early October.



**Rajiv Shah, helped change the structure of Agriculture Research as Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics; then left to direct the U.S. Agency for International Development.**

In other good news, the funding bill for the Office of Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Administration requested and the Congress accepted the idea of creating a one-percent set-aside of specified program funds for research, evaluation, and other related activities.

# COSSA ANNUAL MEETING

On November 2, COSSA held its invitation-only annual meeting. Following last year's meeting that heard from academics surveying the political, economic, and foreign policy landscape in the wake of the presidential election, COSSA this year returned to its tradition of having policy makers, many from the new Obama Administration, discuss their plans and progress. The nearly 80 attendees heard a variety of talks that covered the National Institutes of Health, the Census Bureau, and research and evaluation at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. COSSA's president Aletha Huston presided.

## **Raynard Kington on Behavioral and Social Science at NIH**



**Raynard Kington, NIH Deputy Director**

National Institutes of Health (NIH) deputy director Raynard Kington shared with the COSSA audience examples of the “most important things going on” at the agency as it relates to social and behavioral science research. He noted the approximately 1,600 behavioral and social science research projects totaling nearly \$560 million that have been awarded with American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds.

Kington also discussed the recently announced NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet). He explained that the initiative is the result of long-standing Congressional interest in increased NIH basic behavioral and social sciences research. The goal of OppNet is “to advance basic behavioral and social sciences

research through activities and initiatives that build a body of knowledge about the nature of behavior and social systems.” According to Kington, OppNet “prioritizes activities and initiatives that focus on basic mechanisms of behavior and social process that is relevant to multiple NIH ICO [Institute, Center, and Office] missions and public health challenges, and that build upon existing NIH investments without replicating them.” NIH expects to spend \$10 million in FY 2010, \$20 million in FY 2011, and \$30 million in fiscal years 2012–2014.

Despite the fact this is a “good time for the social and behavioral sciences” at the NIH, Kington pointed out that challenges remain in how the public views behavioral and social science research. He highlighted recent headlines, mostly pertaining to these sciences, and dealing with such issues as sexual behavior, substance use and abuse, international cultural issues, and firearms, noting that the NIH has aggressively defended the science. He concluded his remarks by pointing out the recent appointment of NIH director Francis Collins, who Kington believes is the best informed of the NIH directors when it comes to social and behavioral science research because of his experience with the ELSI [Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications] of the genome research project.

## **Robert Groves on Progress for the Decennial Census Operations**

U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert Groves briefed the attendees on the progress for the decennial 2010 count. He reported that the decennial is on schedule and that the 2010 Census design is fundamentally better than Census 2000. "Every household will receive the short form which is simple, straightforward and easy to understand," said Groves. In addition, "13 million households in census tracts with high concentrations of Spanish speakers will receive a bilingual questionnaire," Groves noted. Furthermore, "because the Master Address File has been maintained throughout the decade, it should provide a better framework for mailing out questionnaires."



**Robert Groves, U.S. Census Bureau Director**

The Bureau is making a special effort to ascertain if people are being counted twice or missing people who may be residing elsewhere. "We now have a Coverage Follow-up operation that will take advantage of those questions to improve the accuracy of the census count...this should reduce differential coverage of subgroups with tenuous attachments to households," said Groves.

Groves stated that over the next couple of months, hundreds of important tasks must be completed across all components of the decennial census programs and that unexpected external events could lead to delays or operational problems. "Because of natural disasters and economic dislocation, the places

where people reside can change quickly." However, he related that the Census Bureau will get the message out that people are to be counted on Census Day at their usual residence.

He outlined both internal and external challenges that the census faces. One internal problem is that "like many federal agencies," said Groves, "the Bureau has experienced significant retirements in its senior ranks particularly with senior statisticians." Groves also warned of the threat of Internet scams and cybercrimes like "phishing" and the widespread misuse of the Census Bureau's logo and brand. Reflecting on the political contentiousness that often accompanies the decennial, Groves commented that it is difficult to combat negative press in this age of technology. "More and more people get the news from non-traditional social media sources like blogs, You Tube, and Facebook rather than from the networks and newspapers of decades past," said Groves. "The sheer volume of these media sources makes it far more difficult for us to get out the facts...but we are working steadily to address these issues."

Asked about looking ahead to the 2020 count, planning for which is already underway, Groves noted the difficulties of predicting technology. He wondered whether there would even be a postal system in 2020 to mail and receive Census forms. For those who talk about conducting the 2020 Census on the Internet, he questioned what the Internet will look like 11 years from now.



## **Raphael Bostic on Revitalizing Research and Evaluation at HUD**

Raphael Bostic, new Assistant Secretary of the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), discussed the revitalization of research and evaluation in the Department.

Defining the recent history of HUD's role in research as "absent," Bostic assured the audience "This is going to change in a dramatic way." Starting with his confirmation hearing, new HUD Secretary Shaune Donovan made a commitment to promoting research and evidence-based policy. Spurred on by a National Academies' report *Revitalizing Research at HUD*, which Bostic helped write, PD&R is now going to assert a leadership role in bringing a research perspective to all HUD activities.

As part of the Department's "Transformation Initiative," PD&R is set to receive a one-percent set-aside of almost the entire HUD budget for research, demonstrations, and technical assistance, he asserted. The research agenda, according to Bostic, would include short-term real-time activities regarding the housing and economic crisis that would also look at the impacts of incentives, consumer education, counseling, and full disclosures, on people's housing market behavior.

He announced that PD&R will continue to fund Ph.D. dissertations for career development activities. He would also like to begin a sabbatical program that would bring researchers on-site at HUD. Bostic told the group that he has spent much of his first few months in office conducting outreach opportunities with various groups. He hopes that the social and behavioral science community will respond to the new opportunities at PD&R.

### **Panel of Education Research Needs**

The meeting included a panel entitled "Building Education Research Knowledge: Short-Term and Long-Term Needs." The session was moderated by Felice Levine of the American Education Research Association (AERA), and included panelists John Easton, new Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), William Tate, of Washington University, St. Louis, and a member of the COSSA Board, and Lindsay Hunsicker, from the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Minority Staff.

Director Easton related that his goal is to figure out what the second generation of IES should look like. He drew a contrast with previous director Russ Whitehurst's predilection for emphasizing randomized controlled trials as the preferred methodology for research. Easton suggested he favored a more "expanded tool box." He has set out five goals that he hopes to accomplish during his tenure. First, he wants to maintain IES's focus on rigorous research, but with a greater focus on making that research more relevant. Second, he said researchers need to start looking at schools and districts as organizations.



**Raphael Bostic (right), Director OPD&R at HUD with James Bray, President, American Psychological Association**



**Lindsay Hunsicker, Senate HELP Committee,  
John Easton, Director, Institute of Education  
Sciences.**

Third, he believes the nation needs to put more resources into education research and development. Easton's fourth goal goes to the heart of his overarching theme to make research more relevant. He believes IES needs to do more to facilitate the use of evidence by practitioners. And lastly, he wants IES to play a stronger role in encouraging districts and states to develop data systems and use that data more effectively.

For Tate the key is to link education to the provision of other services. Using geospatial analysis, he discussed how in the St. Louis area those students who do well on the Missouri 10th grade science test are in schools proximate to the clustering of biotech companies in the region. He railed against the lack of coordination between health and education activities and stressed that solving educational deficiencies can only happen with

comprehensive strategies that examine the economic, health and other social factors in a city or region.

Hunsicker said that research has taken a more central role in discussions about education reform that are happening on Capitol Hill. She explained that there is a desire to pass more funding for research that has been proven to be effective, but at the same time Congress also wants to direct federal dollars towards new research. She cautioned that while randomized controlled trials are important, it is still important to look at other research methods. She told the audience that as we move forward on education research we need to continue to have a conversation about how to use research to inform policy, and also translate that research into something useful.

## **Panel on Changes in Science Policy**

To conclude the meeting, three science policy practitioners examined what if anything has changed in science policy since the advent of the Obama Administration. Kei Koizumi from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy discussed science funding. He noted the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the important inclusion of funding for science agencies in the legislation. Continued increased funding for science may become difficult, Koizumi noted, since reducing the \$1.4 trillion deficit is beginning to move to the forefront of budget planners for next year and beyond.

Dahlia Sokolov, staff director for the Research and Science Education Subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee, noted the panel's three hearings in the previous Congress on the social and behavioral sciences' contributions to public policy. She reminded the audience that the American COMPETES Act that helped contribute to enhanced funding for science agencies, including NSF is up for reauthorization next year. One area the Committee will continue to address is further efforts to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. The role for social and behavioral scientists to play in this endeavor is to help with teacher training, curricula development, and translating the research on science of learning into programs that work. Al Teich, director of Science and Policy Programs at the (AAAS), focused his remarks on the Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP). Teich suggested this has remained an important initiative into the new Administration and has become institutionalized at NSF. He hopes that SciSIP's activities will lead to more international collaborative research, better peer review systems, enhanced tools for accountability, and evidence as to the role of centers vs. individual-investigators.



# OTHER ACTIVITIES

## National Science Foundation (NSF)

COSSA is delighted with the appointment of its former President, Myron Gutmann, as the new Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate. Gutmann met with the COSSA Board just prior to starting at NSF.



New AD for SBE Myron Gutmann with  
COSSA President Aletha Huston.

- Submitted testimony to the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittees regarding FY 2010 funding for the NSF and met with key appropriations staff regarding that funding.
- Joined with others in the scientific community supporting funding for NSF in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- Met regularly with David Lightfoot Assistant Director for the SBE Directorate, Division Directors, and Program Officers.
- Participated in the SBE Advisory Committee meeting and attended National Science Board meetings and awards dinner.

- Attended the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate Advisory Committee and met with the Assistant Director for EHR.
- Maintained regular contact with NSF's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, in particular while organizing opposition to the Coburn Amendment to eliminate the political science program.

## National Institutes of Health and Other Health Agencies

- The Deputy Director for Health Policy continues to co-chair the **Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR)**. Activities included: submitting testimony to the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Committees in support of increased funding for the NIH; monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR); meeting regularly with Acting Director, Chris Bachrach, to discuss the Office's activities and how the social and behavioral science community can assist them.
- Met with Acting NIH Director Raynard Kington regarding a number of issues of concern to the social and behavioral science community. Other NIH officials in attendance included Acting Deputy Director Larry Tabak, Acting OBSSR Director Chris Bachrach, Acting Office of Extramural Research Director Sally Rockey, Acting Director of the Office of Science Policy Amy Patterson, and Office of NH Director staff Susan Persons.

- Met with Patricia Grady, director of the Nursing Institute, to discuss the “science of behavioral change” initiative that is part of the NIH transformative research initiative.
- The Deputy Director for Health Policy continues to co-chair the **Coalition to Protect Research (CPR)**. CPR mobilized in response to Rep. Darrell Issa’s (R-CA) amendment to the House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. The Coalition sent a sign-on letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees urging removal of the amendment from the conference report. CPR also reactivated its Petition to the U.S. Congress to Support Scientific Integrity.
- Submitted recommendations to the NIH Transition Team at the request of its Team Leader, now NIH Director Francis Collins.
- Submitted testimony to the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations’ Subcommittee regarding FY 2010 funding for the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), particularly the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).
- Attended the NIH’s rollout of its plans for spending the agency’s \$10 billion in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding. Attended President Barack Obama’s September 30<sup>th</sup> announcement at the NIH that \$5 billion in Recovery Act funding had provided support for approximately 12,000 grants, “the single largest boost to biomedical research in history.”
- Served as a member of 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 Institute and Center directors. Participated in Hill visits to discuss the NIH’s budget, met with the OMB examiners for NIH to discuss the agency’s budget, and met with the Office of Science and Technology Policy staff Kei Koizumi and Diane DiEullis. The Ad Hoc Group sponsored a congressional seminar series with the NIH Institute and Center directors discussing how the individual institutes are dispensing their ARRA funds.
- Participated in the NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Coordinating Committee panel discussion on “Working with Nonprofits and Professional Societies.”
- Monitored the many hearings conducted by the House and Senate Appropriations Committee regarding spending for the NIH Institutes, AHRQ and CDC.
- Continued to attend and monitor the many NIH institutes’ and centers’ advisory council meetings.
- Attended the management meeting of the NIH Scientific Management Review Board’s (SMRB) as well as the Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction (SUAA) Working Group meetings to monitor discussions of a possible merger of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.
- Continued to monitor the National Children’s Study.
- Joined the Coalition for Health Services Research in submitting congressional testimony on Comparative Effectiveness Research and requesting additional funding for vital health statistics.
- Participated in a meeting with Carolyn Clancy, Administrator of the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research.

## **The Census Bureau and Other Economic Statistics Agencies**



**Current Census Director Robert Groves with former directors Steve Murdock, Louis Kincannon, Kenneth Prewitt, Martha Farnsworth Riche, Barbara Everitt Bryant, Jack Keane, and Vincent Barabba.**

- New Census Director Robert Groves invited COSSA and its members to his swearing-in ceremony. He spoke at the COSSA Annual Meeting.
- The Executive Director remains a member of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee. The Committee continues to receive briefings on the ramp-up to the decennial count and the importance of the American Community Survey (ACS). COSSA has also become a partner for the 2010 Census.
- Advocated for funding for the Bureau and its programs and opposing amendments in Congress, such as one proposed by Sens. David Vitter (R-LA) that would hamper the conduct of the 2010 Census. Attended the numerous congressional hearings overseeing the Census Bureau's activities, as it heads down the homestretch to Census Day in 2010.
- 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.
- Joined other Census and BEA stakeholders to meet with House Appropriations staff on the budgets for these two agencies.

## **Education**

- Monitored policies, research activities, and appointments at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Staff attended and reported on National Board for Education Sciences' meetings. Attended briefings organized by the American Educational Research Association regarding IES reauthorization. IES Director John Easton spoke at the COSSA Annual Meeting.
- Continued its participation in the Coalition for International Education (CIE), which advocates for increased appropriations for Title VI international education centers, language resource centers, and other programs. During 2009 the CIE organized, with the COSSA Executive Director on the planning committee, a successful event to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the enactment of Title VI. Also attended the Department of Education's "official" celebration.
- Participated in a Coalition meeting with Department of Education Undersecretary Martha Kanter and Special Adviser Marshall 'Mike' Smith.
- Advocated for increased funding of Title VI, IES, the Javits Graduate Fellowship program, and the Thurgood Marshall Legal Education Opportunity grants.
- Attended numerous House and Senate Committee Hearings on education issues and also continued to monitor the slow progress of No Child Left Behind Reauthorization. Followed the progress by the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers to develop common core standards.
- Attended Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's briefings and followed major developments regarding funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), including the Department's Race to the Top initiative.
- Attended many briefings at Brookings, Center for American Progress, Alliance for Excellence in Education, Thomas Fordham Institute, and the Urban Institute concerning elementary and secondary education, higher education, poverty, and children and family issues.

## **Justice**



Participated in stakeholder meetings with the Acting Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Laurie Robinson of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to promote the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). During the meetings Robinson announced her intention to seek a one-percent set-aside of OJP funds for enhancing research and evaluation.

**Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General**

- Met with congressional appropriations' staff to advocate for the one-percent set-aside and to further the implementation of the recommendations of the National Academies' Committee on National Statistics panel regarding improvement of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and BJS' operations.
- Met with NIJ Acting Director Kristina Rose and her staff to discuss NIJ's operations and budget as well as the Chair and study director of the National Academies' panel reviewing the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). COSSA continues to monitor the panel's progress.
- Attended confirmation hearing for John Laub's nomination to head NIJ and monitored the nomination of James Lynch to head BJS.
- With the American Society of Criminology and Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, worked on developing a proposal for an Advisory Committee system to NIJ and BJS.
- Attended NIJ's annual research and evaluation conference, the Jerry Lee Symposium on Crime and Criminal Justice, and congressional briefings of George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy.
- Met with Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) to discuss his Youth Promise Act and monitored the congressional progress of the legislation establishing a national criminal justice commission.

## **Agriculture and Rural Development**

- Attended the launch of the revamped research, education, and extension activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has replaced the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. At the launch, the Executive Director spoke with NIFA Administrator Roger Beachy and with then-Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics, Rajiv Shah, and presented them with a copy of *Challenges for Rural America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.



- Met with Kitty Smith, Administrator of the Economic Research Service, and Cynthia Clark, the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.
- Attended the National Research Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEE).
- Spoke to the Experiment Station's Committee on Organization and Policy's Social Science Subcommittee to discuss alternative funding sources for research on rural America.

**Kitty Smith, ERS Administrator**

## Homeland Security



- Maintained COSSA's advocacy for the Human Factors division and University Programs of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Spoke with the Director and attended briefings related to the DHS Center of Excellence on the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) housed at the University of Maryland.

**Gary LaFree, University of Maryland, START Director and a Member of the COSSA Board.**

## Enhancing Diversity in Science

- As a follow-up to the 2008 Leadership Retreat, the Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in Science (CEDS), led by COSSA's Deputy Director sponsored a briefing on Capitol Hill.
- CEDS met with the Office of Research on Women's Health to discuss a collaboration focusing on minority and underrepresented groups in its report, *NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers, Subcommittee Interim Reports on Progress and Tangible Actions*.
- CEDS met with Wanda Ward, then Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources at the National Science Foundation (NSF), to discuss areas where a NSF/CEDS partnership around diversity issues may be possible. CEDS submitted a concept paper to NSF.
- Met with NIH's Acting Office of Extramural Research Director Sally Rockey to discuss underrepresented minorities and training and continues to participate in workshops by the National Health Policy Forum surrounding Diversifying the Health Policy Workforce.



# CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS AND RECEPTIONS

## Social, Behavioral and Economic Research in a Federal Context

Presented in collaboration with the Federation of Associations on Behavior and Brain Sciences: July 27, 2009



Speakers: Honorable Brian Baird, (D-WA) and Honorable Dan Lipinski (D-IL).

L-R: Elke Weber, Columbia University,

David Poeppel, NYU,

Jonathan Wilkenfled, University of Maryland,

David Lightfoot, National Science Foundation

Martina Morris, University of Washington.

## Building a Diverse Scientific Workforce: Collaboration for a Competitive and Healthy Nation

Presented by the Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in Science (CEDS) and co-sponsored by 60 organizations: March 12, 2009.



Speakers:

L-R: Art Coleman, Education Counsel,

Wanda Ward, National Science Foundation,

Raynard Kington, National Institutes of Health,

Mary Ann McCabe, Society for Research in Child Development, Moderator.

## **National Institutes of Health: Improving the Nation's Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research**

April 28, 2009

This exhibition and reception was sponsored by the Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Science Research and 30 other organizations. The event was co-sponsored by Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Arlen Specter (D-PA) and Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and Brian Bilbray (R-CA). Representatives David Price (D-NC) and Tim Murphy (R-PA) attended along with National Institute of Mental Health director Tom Insel and Acting National Human Genome Research Institute director Alan Guttmacher.



**Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) and NIMH Director Tom Insel**



**Alan Guttmacher and Christine Bachrach, Acting Director of Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research**

## COSSA AND THE COMMUNITY

*COSSA Washington Update* remains the 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 more than 1,800 people at universities, on Capitol Hill, in the Federal Agencies, and social and behavioral scientists in the Washington community and overseas. The annual budget analysis issue examines over 50 agencies supporting social and behavioral science research and remains a key reference for many people. The newsletter has printed reports of the Members' Annual Meetings and Task Force reports.

COSSA staff remains a source for the science press, both background and on-the-record, including a number of conversations this year with the Wall Street Journal and Science Magazine regarding the 2010 Census and Nature regarding NIH and peer-reviewed grants. Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report's cover story on the federal statistical system featured many observations from COSSA's Executive Director.

- Continued active participation in the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). Encouraged COSSA members to participate in the CNSF exhibition.
- 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 on Aging, the Friends of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coalition, the Friends of the National Center for Health Statistics, the Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Health Research Service Administration Coalition, Genome Action Coalition, and the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition.
- The Deputy Director served on the Steering Committees of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding and the Friends of NICHD. COSSA joined the members of the Ad Hoc Group to hold a reception for new NIH Director Francis Collins.
- Attended many meetings at the National Academies, particularly those associated with the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. ED met with the Division's Executive Director Michael Feuer.
- Met with Katherine Wallman, the Chief Statistician of the U.S., Connie Citro, head of the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT), and collaborated with Ken Prewitt in preparations for the CNSTAT seminar, *The Federal Statistical System: Recognizing its Contributions, Moving It Forward*.
- The Deputy Director served on the selection panels for NIH's Council of Public Representatives and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellowship program.
- Continue to collaborate with AAAS. Moderated a session at the AAAS Policy Forum introducing Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA). Participated in the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Attended the AAAS-sponsored reception for the 2009 Nobel Prize recipients at the Swedish Embassy. Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson, Economics' Prize winners participated.

## CONSTITUENCY RELATIONS

- At the end 2009, COSSA consisted of 17 Governing Members, 24 Member Organizations, 56 Universities, and 12 Centers and Institutes.
- The Executive Director moderated a panel at the American Society of Criminology meeting.
- COSSA staff also attended the annual meetings of the American Historical Association and the American Statistical Association.
- COSSA staff attended the American Educational Research Association's Office of Information Affairs Policy Conference, and its Policy Forum luncheons co-sponsored with the Institute for Educational Leadership.
- Executive Director attended the awards dinner of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences in Philadelphia and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research.



**L-R: Fay Lomax Cook, IPR Director, Jay Walsh, Northwestern University V.P. for Research, Silver, and Wesley G. Skogan, IPR Associate Director. Photo credit: Jim Ziv.**

- Executive Director met with the President of the National Opinion Research Center and the Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago.
- Executive Director participated in multiple events connected to the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan. He consulted with the University's Washington office recommending appointments for the ISR delegation.
- Executive Director attended the National Bureau of Economic Research's Tax Policy Seminar and met with many representatives of COSSA's Member Organizations, Universities, and Centers and Institutes.

## 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 2009, the Consortium had 17 Governing Members, 24 Membership Organizations, 55 Universities and 12 Centers and Institutes. In 2010, the Population Association of America will become the Consortium's 18<sup>th</sup> Governing Member, elevating its status from Membership Organization.

COSSA's Board of Directors consists of two representatives from each of the Governing Member associations, 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 2009, Aletha Huston, Professor of Child Development at the University of Texas at Austin, served the first of a two-year term as COSSA President.



**Sally Hillsman**

The Executive Committee consists of the executive officers, or their designees, of the Member associations and COSSA's executive director, ex-officio. The Committee meets quarterly to discuss issues of COSSA policy and priorities. In 2009, Sally Hillsman, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, served the first of her two-year term as Chair.

In 2009 three new members joined the Executive Committee:

**Ralph Brown**, Executive Director, Rural Sociological Society,

**Nancy Kidd**, Executive Director, National Communications Association,

**Roger Tourangeau**, 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 and each COSSA staff member now reports his/her political contributions twice a year. COSSA has determined that it spends about one-third of its funds lobbying.

The Consortium's budget for 2009 was approximately \$500,000.



## 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 of 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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