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COSSA ANNUAL MEETING LOOKS AT ROLE AND FUTURE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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The 1994 COSSA Annual Meeting featured discussions of the integration of social science in federal research and development efforts, as well as the future of federal support for research in these disciplines in the wake of the recent Republican takeover of both the House and the Senate. The meeting, attended by over 70 leaders of social science groups and invited guests, was held on November 21 in Washington, D.C.

PETERSEN DISCUSSES FUNDING, ROLE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE AT NSF

National Science Foundation (NSF) Deputy Director Anne Petersen, a self-described "advocate for the social and behavioral sciences for over 20 years" announced at the meeting that Fiscal Year 1995 funding for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences Directorate will increase 15 percent, from \$98 million in FY 1994 to \$113 million. She noted that while SBE has a smaller budget than other research directorates, it is slated for the largest percentage increase.

Petersen was confirmed by the Senate this summer for her position, a component of which entails serving as NSF's Chief Operating Officer. She is the first woman to hold one of the two senior positions at NSF. Petersen has an extensive background in psychology, adolescent development, and statistics.

Petersen began by briefly commenting on the November 8 elections and what the Republican takeover of Congress may mean for NSF. She said that there are currently "too many variables and uncertainties" regarding committee chairmanships and other issues to accurately gauge the election's impact on the Foundation, but she did note that the GOP's *Contract With America* calls for a reduction in the growth rate for NSF and cuts in domestic discretionary spending, the category from which research is funded. Another area of concern, she commented, is that over half the House and one quarter of the Senate will have

turned over since 1990, and "It's safe to assume that most of these members know little about NSF and its programs -- especially those in the social sciences. It will be our job to educate them."

She focused the balance of her remarks to the luncheon audience "on where NSF is going and what it will mean to the social sciences." Given the public demand for greater government accountability for spending, she said that NSF is seeking a stronger link between research and national needs and priorities, while at the same time maintaining its 40 year commitment to basic research.

On October 14th the National Science Board, the governing body for NSF, approved a Strategic Plan for the agency that sets forth three goals to guide the Foundation: Enable the United States to uphold a position of world leadership in all aspects of science, mathematics, and engineering; Promote the discovery, integration, dissemination, and employment of new knowledge in service to society; and Achieve excellence in U.S. science, mathematics, engineering, and technology at all levels. According to Petersen, NSF will continue to provide leadership for activities that link efforts across disciplines, between teaching and research, and between industry and universities.

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For the social and behavioral sciences, Petersen said these linkages can be seen in extensive SBE involvement with global climate change by examining attitudes and behavior, stress and coping, and risk management and assessment; in environmental research through studying the social, political, and economic implications of environmental problems; and in research on the ability and willingness of Americans to use and adapt to new technology. A specific example she cited was NSF's Transition to Quality Organizations Initiative. The interdisciplinary context of these efforts, she argued, "helps to spotlight the relevance of SBE research. The research is far less likely to sit on the shelf and instead is far more likely to receive wider dissemination and application."

Petersen lauded the potential for the SBE sciences to contribute to national goals through NSF's Human Capital Initiative, which earlier this year received strong congressional support. She stated that the initiative will integrate research across disciplines through researching issues relating to the American workforce, education, families, neighborhoods, diversity, and economic opportunity.

She urged social scientists to broaden their perspective by working with those from outside their community, do a better job informing a broader audience on the importance of their research, and seek to ensure that the work of the social science community makes a greater contribution to policy and decision making.

Petersen concluded her remarks by saying: "In

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sum, many of the areas of greatest potential contribution for NSF are rooted in the social sciences -- specifically in understanding that entirely human process of bringing new knowledge to bear on society's concerns and challenges. Issues such as these help explain why investing in the social sciences is so important."

JUSTUS OUTLINES WHITE HOUSE SCIENCE OFFICE'S INCLUSION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Joyce Justus, Assistant Director for Social and Behavioral Science at the White House's Office of Science and Technology (OSTP), addressed the COSSA meeting and outlined OSTP's efforts to better integrate the social and behavioral sciences into Federal science policy. She began by thanking the social science community for its long-standing vigilance in support of research, and said that her current job exists, in part, because social science groups "wouldn't take no for an answer" in lobbying for these disciplines to be formally represented at OSTP.

Justus praised Vice President Al Gore's public support of the contributions of social science research, and also noted that the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology has many members from diverse backgrounds that have publicly lauded these disciplines (see *Update*, November 7).

In relating the new leadership in Congress to the Administration's science and technology policy, Justus expressed optimism. Much of what OSTP has achieved, she said, will likely remain unchanged, namely leadership and coordination of efforts to improve fundamental science and restructure post-Cold War goals for science. She said that the Clinton administration has moved "away from business as usual" and toward a more effective mechanism for setting science and technology priorities. Justus said that the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) has brought together the leadership of numerous agencies to set research agendas and budgets. The structure of the NSTC, through its committee on fundamental science, allows the National Science Foundation to maintain its long-standing commitment to this type of research.

Turning to the Republican's *Contract With America*, Justus acknowledged that while perhaps she

was being "Pollyannish," she saw areas of mutual agreement between the GOP and social scientists. Citing the plan's call for, among other things, fiscal responsibility, reducing crime, and instilling personal responsibility, Justus said that these are shared goals and that "social science has a lot to say that could help frame this contract in such a way so that things you care about are on the national agenda."

Discussing what she has learned and what she hopes to achieve in her position, Justus praised the advice given to her by Cora Marrett, Assistant Director for SBE at the National Science Foundation, to reach out to social science leaders to learn their concerns. In these efforts, Justus said she has learned that there is universal agreement that the social sciences suffered in the 1980s, and that these disciplines, with the exception of economics, are frequently excluded from decision-making levels in government. Social science leaders, she noted, have told her that they want their disciplines "at the table" when policy is made.

Justus said she hopes to "be the voice of social science" in OSTP and to help integrate these disciplines in all Federal research and development activities. She said she has yet to hear of a Federal R&D program that did not have a social science component to it. She also is aiming to achieve a recognition that the word "science" includes all sciences. Assuring the audience that she is aware of the social science community's concerns about the current state of the National Institute of Health under Director Harold Varmus (see *Update*, October 10), Justus said that work is being done "on the problem from all angles."

EDELMAN ON ROLE OF VIOLENCE RESEARCH

Peter Edelman, Counselor to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Chair of the Interagency Committee on Violence, addressed the gathering on "violence and the role research can play in alleviating it."

Before turning to the topic of violence, Edelman used his introductory remarks to discuss what he termed "a difficult and complicated time" for the social sciences in the wake of the Republican takeover of Congress. He said that while it may be an unfriendly

Congress, "you work with it," and urged the research community to be "tough and smart." According to Edelman, there is a strong need to speak clearly with facts that have a research base, an approach, he said, that may not be universal in coming debates. In the area of violence, he said that much is affected by local activities -- families, schools, churches, community groups, and police departments -- and that one should not overstate the impact on violence of the November elections.

Research Should Reflect Complexity of Problem

Edelman doubted that there will be a solution to violence that is "quick, obvious, and overnight," and urged caution in pursuing research that assumes one variable will be the key. Research, he said, should reflect the complexity of the problem of violence.

Edelman outlined several broad areas where he saw a strong role for research. First, he noted, was assuring public safety and enforcing laws well. He said that the Crime Bill's support for community-oriented policing would enable researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of local efforts to adopt new policing strategies. Edelman spoke of research by criminologist Lawrence Sherman that is the basis for new efforts by police departments in Kansas City and Indianapolis to seize illegal weapons. Profiled in a November 20 *New York Times* article, these new policies, according to Edelman, suggest that "we can take even pretty simple ideas and make them objects of study so that we can show in a much clearer way their efficacy."

Edelman said that another area in which research can contribute involves questions of economic opportunity, poverty, and racism. He commented that considerable research can be done on job networks and career ladders for the underprivileged. For example, he said that Labor Department economists have noted that low-wage jobs, such as at fast food restaurants, are not always the dead-end jobs that they are widely perceived as being, for they can produce transferrable skills and self-confidence. Edelman noted that not much is known about resiliency, how some people overcome difficult surroundings to achieve success. He lamented that research too often focuses on preventing negative outcomes; he preferred instead "an asset focus rather than a deficit focus." He said researchers can shed light on issues such as mentoring and building strong communities and neighborhoods.

Other broad avenues for researchers to pursue, according to Edelman, include: violence as a public health issue, family preservation, effects of childhood abuse, drugs and alcohol, and the impact of violence in the media and the alternative of proactive positive messages sent through the media.

Edelman called for a national discussion on the question of values, and urged researchers to "take a leadership role on the renewal of citizenship." If researchers have too often been viewed as "mandarins" and removed from these discussions, he lamented, "perhaps some of that is our fault."

PANEL LOOKS AT PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF VIOLENCE RESEARCH

A panel of leading criminologists followed Edelman's presentation with an overview of past contributions, the current base of knowledge, and future areas of study in the area of violence. The freewheeling discussion touched on a wide range of subjects, and included considerable audience participation. Moderated by Felice J. Levine, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, the group included: Colin Loftin, professor of criminology and director of the Violence Research Group at the University of Maryland; Joan McCord, professor of criminal justice at Temple University; Jeffrey A. Roth, Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute; and Christy A. Visher, Science Advisor to the Director of the National Institute of Justice.

Levine asked the panelists to offer what they consider significant research findings on violence. McCord cited studies on the use of force to control misbehavior begetting the later use of force, the amount of violence that occurs between people that are acquainted, and the importance of family interaction regardless of family structure. Loftin cited research on limiting gun availability, the concentration of violence in poor areas, and how racial effects are "washed out" by extreme socio-economic factors. Visher said that studies have noted the importance of public information efforts in curbing violence among intimates and also research showing that violent tendencies begin early in life and remain for years. Roth mentioned research examining deterrence efforts being offset by social processes and studies showing

the relationship between alcohol and aggressive behavior.

The four panelists were asked the question: "There has been a small but steady federal investment in violence research at the National Institute of Justice and the National Institute of Mental Health during the past twenty-five years, what has been the payoff?"

Roth said that the quarter century of work has built an apparatus of methods of evaluation to study crime control measures, but added that there is a need to better explain research findings to the public and to policymakers. Visher concurred, saying that the federal investment has succeeded in developing a scientific approach to the study of these issues, as well as training and supporting a number of researchers. Lofin noted a significant expansion of the knowledge base on violence. McCord said that the "legacy of political impatience is ignorance," commenting that policymakers need to be more appreciative of research findings, particularly those that are counter-intuitive.

Addressing what is unknown or needs further study, Visher said that "we don't know as much as we think we do" regarding the relationship between community and individual actions. In a similar vein, Loftin contended that researchers should not look at violence as individual acts, rather that future research should examine it as a collective, contagious phenomenon. McCord cited laws in several European nations against physical discipline of children, and said that future studies should explore whether change in laws or change in social attitudes is appropriate. Roth spoke of gaps in knowledge on how to displace negative forces in crime-ridden neighborhoods.

SCHULTZE NAMED COSSA PRESIDENT; COOPER AND MACCOBY JOIN BOARD

The COSSA Board of Directors has elected Charles Schultze, Senior Economist at the Brookings Institution, as the next President of the Consortium. Schultze, whose two-year term commences on January 1, 1995, replaces William Julius Wilson. Schultze has been on the COSSA Board of Directors since 1990. He is a former Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers and a Director of the Bureau of the Budget. He recently chaired a National Academy of Sciences' panel examining future Census needs. (See next story)

Joining the Board of Directors are Joseph Cooper, Provost and Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University, and Eleanor Maccoby, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Stanford University. Cooper is the former Dean of Social and Behavioral Science and Professor and Chairman, Department of Political Science at Rice University. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Congress and the legislative process.

Maccoby, who has been at Stanford since 1958, is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine. A former President of the Society for Research on Child Development, Maccoby serves as the co-chair of the Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children and a member of its Council on Adolescent Development.

Reappointed to the Board were Eloise E. Clark, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Biological Sciences at Bowling Green State University and Lois DeFleur, President, State University of New York, Binghamton. Clark is a former Assistant Director for the old Biological, Behavioral and Social Science Directorate at the National Science Foundation. DeFleur, a sociologist, has previously served as Provost at the University of Missouri and the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Washington State.

Wilson, Lucy Flower University Professor of Public Policy and Sociology and the Director of the Center for the Study of Urban Inequality at the University of Chicago, will remain on the Board in the new position of Immediate Past President.

NAS BACKS SAMPLING, ESTIMATION FOR 2000 CENSUS

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A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) concludes that a fundamentally redesigned census that relies more heavily on sampling and statistical estimates would be more accurate and cost-effective than past efforts that have relied on trying to physically count every person in the nation. The report, *Modernizing the U.S. Census*, said that the census should be re-engineered to eliminate or streamline a number of costly operations.

"Correctly designed, this approach reduces the need to spend large amounts of time and money following up on people who don't return the questionnaire," said panel chair Charles L. Schultze, COSSA President-elect and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "Rather, after a good faith effort to contact everyone, surveys should be used to follow-up on those who do not respond and to account for those for who have been completely missed."

The Census Bureau is planning to test extensively the use of sampling and estimation for the 2000 Census. The NAS panel recommended that the Bureau also develop a comprehensive plan to re-engineer all its operations in the context of the new design.

Physical Count Costly and Unrealistic

The report concluded that the goal of trying to physically count every person has proven costly and unrealistic. "Long before that objective can be achieved, diminishing returns set in so that only small gains are made at great costs," the panel explained. Between 1970 and 1990, census costs (in 1990 dollars) rose from \$11 per housing unit to \$25 per housing unit. In 1990, a large number of census-takers personally visited -- as many as six times -- every household that failed to return a census questionnaire. Despite this extra effort, the net undercount in 1990 was greater than it was in 1980. The difference in the net undercount between black and non-black people was 4.4 percent, the highest level since 1940.

The fate of the panel's recommendations is uncertain, as the Republican takeover of Congress will place the GOP in control of committees that oversee the Census Bureau's operations and funding. Saying the Constitution requires an actual count, many Republicans oppose the use of sampling, estimation, continuous measurement, and administrative records.

For a copy of the report, contact the NAS at (202) 334-3313.

CENSUS BUREAU SEEKS INPUT ON DATA NEEDS

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The Census Bureau is seeking advice from non-Federal data users about their content and geographic needs for the 2000 Census. To obtain this information, the Bureau is conducting the Survey of Census Needs for Non-Federal Data Users.

Survey respondents are asked to provide their content requirements, including the legal citation where applicable, as well as the smallest geographic level needed for each topic. Respondents are also asked the level of difficulty of finding alternative sources of data for content topics, if they were no longer included on the census questionnaire.

For more information, contact Gloria Porter or Doug Lee, Bureau of the Census, Room 3555/3, Washington, D.C. 20233; (301) 763-4282. After December 16, (301) 457-4030.

NIA FUNDS NEW DEMOGRAPHY CENTERS ON HEALTH, ECONOMICS, AND AGING

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Nine new centers to promote and improve demographic research on health, economics and aging have been established by the National Institute on Aging (NIA). The efforts are expected to make more effective and efficient use of massive amounts of data from several large national surveys of health, retirement, and long-term care.

Charged with making data from studies like the National Long Term Care Survey and the Health and Retirement Study more "user friendly," the centers will be sponsoring conferences, workshops, electronic bulletin boards, and other programs to make survey data more accessible to researchers across the U.S. and worldwide. The research will be connected to policymakers, with several centers having communication plans for sharing research results with government agencies, the Congress, and others who need these types of data. Together the centers will receive about \$2 million in first-year funding. Each center has been approved for five years.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the final issue of *Update* for 1994, with publication resuming in mid-January. The entire staff at COSSA extends its warm wishes for the holiday season.

A topical index for the 1994 editions of *Update* is now available. Please contact COSSA at (202) 842-3525 to obtain a copy.

The new centers:

- **The University of Michigan** will focus on health and labor market activity among older people and on retirement migration.
- **The University of California at Berkeley** will study demographic forecasting, life cycle planning, and health in old age.
- **The University of Chicago** will focus on the biodemography of aging.
- **Duke University** will conduct research on forecasting active life expectancy and assessing rates of disease and disability.
- **Johns Hopkins University** will emphasize research on disease, disability, and withdrawal from the labor force.
- **National Bureau of Economic Research** will specialize in economic analyses of aging and health care.
- **The University of Pennsylvania** will study intergenerational issues.
- **RAND** will look at health, financial resources, and the role of family with aging.
- **Syracuse University** will examine the economic well-being of older women and people with disabilities.

For more information, contact NIA at (301) 496-1752.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Research in Education of Individuals with Disabilities Program

The Research in Education of Individuals with Disabilities Program, authorized by Part E of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, provides support: (1) To advance and improve the knowledge base and improve the practice of professionals, parents, and others providing early intervention, special education, and related services--including professionals in regular education environments--to provide children with disabilities effective instruction and enable them to successfully learn; and (2) for research and related purposes, surveys or demonstrations relating to physical education or recreation, including therapeutic recreation, for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Priorities:

(1) *Examining Alternatives for Outcome Assessment for Children with Disabilities* -- The Assistant Secretary establishes an absolute priority for research projects that pursue systematic programs of applied research focusing on one or more issues related to outcome assessment and/or outcomes-based accountability for students with disabilities.

(2) *Studying Models That Bridge the Gap Between Research and Practice* --The Assistant Secretary establishes an absolute priority for research projects to implement and examine a model(s) for using research knowledge to improve education practice and outcomes for children with disabilities.

(3) *Student-Initiated Research Projects* -- This priority provides support for short-term (up to 12 months) postsecondary student-initiated research projects focusing on special education and related services for children and youth with disabilities and early intervention services for infants and toddlers.

Purpose of Program: To advance and improve the knowledge base and improve the practice of professionals, parents, and others providing early intervention, special education, and related services--including professionals in regular education environments--to provide children with disabilities effective instruction and enable them to successfully learn.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are State and local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, and other public agencies and nonprofit private organizations.

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u># of awards</u>	<u>Available Funds</u>
1	2/24/95	4 up to 36mo.	\$175,000/per year
2	3/24/95	5 up to 48mo.	\$140,000/for the first year
3	2/24/95	12 up to 12mo.	\$15,000 for the entire project

Contact: For applications and general information contact Darlene Crumblin, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Switzer Building, Room 3525, Washington, DC 20202-2641. Telephone (202) 205-8953.

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