

**HOLY GRAIL WITHIN REACH:
BALANCED BUDGET PROPOSED;
RESEARCH GETS BIG INCREASES**

After almost 30 years of budget deficits a President of the United States has proposed a budget that will, according to his calculations, achieve a surplus of \$9.5 billion in FY 1999 and larger surpluses in the years ahead. This milestone has occurred four years earlier than projected after last year's budget deal.

The news for the Research and Development budget is quite good. Vice President Al Gore, in a news conference held by the Office of Science and Technology (OSTP), called scientific research "one of the top priorities in this budget." Investing in science, Gore said, will provide "economic growth, better health, and a better quality of life for our families."

The overall R&D budget increases by 3 percent to a total of \$78.2 billion. The centerpiece of the President's R&D proposal is the 21st Century Research Fund. It provides \$31 billion in new spending during the next five years for the federal government's civilian research programs. These programs will average an 8 percent increase in FY 1999, and climb by 32 percent in the next five years.

NSF and NIH: Biggest Increases Ever

In the State of the Union address, the President announced that in his new budget the National Science Foundation would receive its largest proposed increase ever. In terms of absolute dollars, NSF will receive a \$340 million increase (the largest ever) for a total proposed budget of \$3.773 billion, a 10 percent increase over FY 1998. The Social, Behavioral and Economic Science (SBE) Directorate is slated for a 15 percent increase to \$150.3 million. The proposed increase for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Research Division is 16.2 percent to \$113.8 million. NSF Director Neal Lane was so

pleased with his proposed budget, he said it was even a "good day to be a science bureaucrat."

The National Institutes of Health receives what Director Harold Varmus called "an unprecedented commitment," with its largest increase ever. The proposed NIH budget provides an increase of \$1.15 billion to a total of \$14.8 billion. The administration plans a 50 percent increase over the next five years. This may not satisfy Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Rep. John Porter (R-IL) and others in Congress, who advocate a 100 percent boost in the next five years. The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research and the Centers and Disease Control and Prevention will both receive \$25 million increases from the Fund.

A quick look at the proposed budgets for other agencies: a 34 percent increase to \$130 million for the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program at the Agriculture Department; a 6.6 percent increase in basic research at the Department of Defense; a new \$75 million joint program at NSF and the Office of Educational Research and Improvement to support research related to education technology and to utilize the latest research findings to improve mathematics instruction in middle schools; a \$5 million increase for the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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For a full description of the President's FY 1999 budget proposals, the next issue of *COSSA Washington UPDATE* will provide analyses of proposed funding for over 40 agencies of the federal government. Look for it in early March.

EDUCATION RESEARCH FOCUS OF CONGRESSIONAL AND WHITE HOUSE DISCUSSIONS

Both the Senate Budget Committee's Task Force on Education and the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) recently focused on how to improve education research and make it more useful to help improve K-12 education. The Senate panel, chaired by Senator Bill Frist (R-TN), has been charged with investigating the federal government's role in the nation's education system. The PCAST discussion looked at follow-up activities to *A Report to the President on the Use of Technology to Strengthen K-12 Education in the United States*, known as the Shaw Report, after its chief author, PCAST member David E. Shaw (see *UPDATE*, July 14, 1997).

The Senate task force received testimony from Sharon Robinson, former Assistant Secretary of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). Robinson, now a Vice President at the Educational Testing Service, was unable to appear in person due to a family emergency. During her tenure

at OERI, Robinson led the agency in its new configuration, established by the 1994 reauthorization, of five research institutes and an agenda-setting policies and priorities research board. She also led the Office in the development and distribution of products and services to support knowledge-based reform of teaching practice and school management.

In her testimony, Robinson argued for maintaining the federal government's role as the chief supporter of education research and development, and the collection, analysis and dissemination of education statistics. She asked that the new OERI created by the 1994 law, "be given time to allow the results ... to become known and available." "There is increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of basing education practices and reform efforts on quality research and data," she said.

Robinson cited the Shaw report's stress on the minuscule funding — only one-third of one percent of education expenditures — on education research and development across the broad spectrum from pre-kindergarten to higher education. This theme was echoed by two other witnesses before Frist's panel. Robert E. Slavin, co-director of the Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed At-Risk, used phrases like "grotesquely underfunded," "a blip in the budget" and "flying blind," to describe the underfunding of education research and its impact on education practices. Steve Goldman, executive director of the Ball Foundation, argued that education research "lacks critical mass." Both noted that education policies and practices often precede research that would demonstrate the potential for success for these activities.

Slavin advocated a problem solving research and development approach that would include significant set-asides for program evaluation, e.g. \$160 million for Title I effectiveness studies. He also wanted targeted resources for replicable research. Harold Hodgkinson, director of the Center for Demographic Policy, noted the difficulties in making education research iterative. The demographic, geographic and sub-cultural contexts make an all-size-fits-one research and reform agenda impossible, he declared. Because of these differences, "If it works in San Antonio, it will fail in Cleveland," he said.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral sciences. *Update* is published 22 times per year. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788.

For PCAST, the issues raised by the Shaw Report are now the focus of a group chaired by David Hamburg, former president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. He and his colleague on PCAST, Shirley Malcolm, director of Education at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and others, are trying to figure out how to implement the recommendations in the Shaw Report. Although they view the report's call for enhanced research funding of \$1.5 billion per year as unrealistic, they would like to make some improvements. The administration's proposed budget includes a \$50 million program for research on education technology. The other question they are grappling with is where such an enhanced program should exist within the federal bureaucracy. PCAST members do not seem enamored of the U.S. Department of Education for this task and Malcolm mentioned the notion of an independent National Institute on Learning.

NURSING INSTITUTE TO EMPHASIZE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROMOTION

Child and adolescent health promotion, including reducing and preventing risk behavior, will be part of five areas of research emphasized by the National Institute of Nursing Research in 1998. The five areas will highlight "past scientific advances, present needs and future health challenges in reducing the burden of illness and improving the quality of life for people across the age span and in at-risk populations," said NINR's director Patricia Grady at the Institute's January advisory council meeting. The remaining areas include: controlling emerging infections through behavioral interventions; prevention of low weight births in minority populations; clinical interventions for managing the symptoms of stroke; neuroimmunological effects of behavioral intervention; and respiratory needs of patients — mechanical ventilation.

Trans-NIH's End-of Life Research

Grady informed council members that NINR will be the lead institute in a trans-NIH focus on end-of-life issues. It will allow the institute to build on its portfolio of decision-making and pain management.

The institute, in conjunction with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Dental Research, National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Office of Alternative Medicine, held a research workshop, *Symptoms in Terminal Illness*, in September 1997 per the recommendations of an Institute of Medicine (IOM) report.

The report from the workshop emphasizes that there are a number of important gaps in knowledge surrounding the end of life experience. The report notes that the following areas should receive priority: 1) epidemiology; 2) basic research; 3) clinical research -- including interventions to mobilize psychosocial and spiritual resources that may help mediate the perception and interpretation of symptoms; and 4) methodology -- with particular attention paid to "validating subjective and nonverbal measures."

The report notes that studies are needed on ethical issues that may be barriers to research at the end of life, including the needs and protection of vulnerable populations, especially the role of privacy during this important phase of life. A copy of the full report can be viewed on NINR's website at <http://www.nih.gov/ninr/end-of-life.htm>.

REORGANIZATION OF NSF RESEARCH DIVISION PROPOSED

The National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral and Economic Research Division (SBER) will be divided into two divisions according to Bennett Bertenthal, Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate. One division will be called Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) and the other Social and Economic Sciences (SES).

Bertenthal noted that growth in the division's budget since the formation of the new directorate in 1992, as well as the large level of activity and staffing in the division make the split necessary. As currently constituted, SBER is the largest division in the Foundation in terms of number of programs (17), number of program officers (26) and number of rotators (13). It ranks second in the number of

competitive actions and first in the number of awards. In addition, Bertenthal pointed out, the number of NSF initiatives and themes central to SBER sciences continue to grow rapidly.

SBER currently supports research from at least ten different academic departments. However, Bertenthal suggests that "although researchers from all of these departments share an interest in the study of people, their institutions and their cultures, there is considerable variance in the issues, methods and infrastructure needs of the disciplines." Explaining further the need for the split, Bertenthal stated that the two new divisions also differ in that SES is committed to funding large national surveys that provide essential information about the social and economic status of people living in the U.S. By contrast, the BCS division is more interested in fulfilling the instrumentation needs of its community so that they are able to construct state-of-the-art research which often demands expensive equipment, such as neural imagers.

The placing of current programs into each of the new divisions remains under discussion. A new program tentatively titled "Children and Learning," that would seek ties to the government-wide Children's Initiative, will be placed in the BCS division. The date for making the two new divisions official is also still uncertain. The current SBER director William Butz is expected to head the new SES division, and current SBER deputy director Hilleary Everist will be named acting director of the new BCS division.

THE CENSUS, THE LONG-FORM AND TRANSPORTATION

Census data, particularly those gathered through the long-form questionnaire, are essential to transportation planners. That was the overriding theme of the recently held congressional program entitled "Transportation and the U.S. Economy: The Vital Census Data Linkage." The program, sponsored by the Population Research Center, brought together leading experts to speak of the importance of the census and the nexus between census data and transportation in the United States. The speakers specifically noted the importance of the information gleaned from the "journey-to-work" questions

contained in the long-form and stressed the need to keep these questions intact in the 2000 census.

Alan Pisarski, author of "Commuting in America" and "Commuting in America II," began the discussion with an overview of some of the forces of change in national transportation. He noted that in the last several decades there have been two major forces of change: 1) the baby boom generation coming of age and commuting to work and 2) women increasingly entering the workforce and commuting to work. He also pointed to changing commuting patterns in the United States. He stated that the "Ozzie and Harriet days" of living in the suburbs and commuting to the center city are long gone. Now, he said, the predominant commuting pattern is from suburb to suburb since many of the jobs formerly located in the city have moved to the suburbs. Transportation officials and policy makers, according to Pisarski, use the census data to identify and address these changing patterns. Pisarski also said that the need to deal with increasingly smaller segments of the traveling population, primarily the welfare-to-work population, makes it incumbent upon public officials to know how people are commuting and where the jobs are located.

Ed Christopher, director of Information Services for the Chicago Area Transportation Study, corroborated the importance of the census data for transportation needs. One of the most important attributes of the "journey-to-work transportation package," or the Census Transportation Planning Package, is that it is used for transit forecasting and model development. In addition, Christopher said that "census data is important when public officials need to vote on transportation systems" for their areas. Transportation data derived from the census is also important, according to Christopher, because local officials use the information as survey support. In other words, local officials often times conduct surveys of their population when they need more detailed transit information, including trip frequency, trip purpose and mode of transportation. He concluded by stating that the census is indeed "more than just a count" and the long-form questionnaire "must move forward."

Echoing the comments of Pisarski and Christopher, Jacqueline Byers spoke of the "critical

connection between transportation and welfare reform." Byers, director of research for the National Association of Counties, noted that the Census data and the "long-form are integral in making welfare reform work." There are three things, according to Byers, required in order for welfare reform to work: 1) child care, 2) job training and 3) adequate and accessible transportation. The data gathered from the Census, especially the long-form questionnaire, allow public officials to know exactly where the welfare-to-work population lives and where jobs are located. Byers lamented the fact that the jobs are often not accessible to public transportation. However, the existence of the information can serve as a vehicle for change in an area's public transportation system and "get the welfare-to-work population to work."

RESULTS FROM ADOLESCENT STUDY DESCRIBED

According to recent preliminary results of the congressionally-mandated, federally-funded National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), the size of the school that children attend affects how connected they feel to their school. The study reaffirms that smaller schools are better, said Richard Udry, Kenan Professor of Maternal and Child Health and Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Udry highlighted several other preliminary findings from the Add Health Study at a seminar organized by the NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Coordinating Committee and sponsored by the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

Udry said that the results from the Add Health study also revealed a "distressing finding." In particular, students attending all black or all white schools have the highest sense of attachment to their school. Conversely, students attending schools that are approximately 50/50 in their racial makeup (black/white) have a "lower level of school cohesion," said Udry.

Smoking & Sexual Behavior

Regarding parental and peer influence on adolescent smoking, Udry said that "it is very clear" that adolescent smoking has nothing to do with parents' smoking behavior.

The study also reveals that taking a "virginity pledge" has a big effect on all adolescents, black/white, male/female. "Taking a pledge means something," said Udry. Another intriguing and surprising finding of the study was what Udry called "surviving as a virgin" for African American males. The study reveals that African-American males with a higher-level of emotional commitment to their romantic partners are less likely to have sex with that partner. Conversely, males with less emotional commitment to their partners are more likely to have sex. Udry explained, however, that the opposite phenomenon was true for African American females and white males and females.

Additionally, the study found that average and below-average students were more likely to have sex. "The smarter the kid," said Udry, "the less likely he/she is to have sex." Surprisingly, he added, the study found that students at the low-end of the intelligence scale are also much less likely to have sex.

The Study

Add Health is the largest and most comprehensive survey of adolescents ever undertaken in the United States. The study includes data on 90,118 American adolescents. It is conducted by a multidisciplinary team of scientists led by Udry. One of the hallmarks of Add Health is the independent measurement of contextual influences on adolescent life. Initial findings from the study were reported in *Journal of the American Medical Association* last September (see *UPDATE*, September 15, 1997). Also, see the September 15 issue of *UPDATE* for information regarding researchers' obtaining the data-use tapes.

NIDA SECOND LARGEST SUPPORTER OF BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH AT NIH

Drug abuse and addiction have a unique context of issues which are most complex and seen mostly as social but are also a public health issue, said National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Alan Leshner. According to Leshner, speaking before the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding breakfast, NIDA funds the second largest amount of behavioral research at the National Institutes of Health. He observed that NIDA's research includes AIDS, neuroscience, treatment, health services, protective and resiliency factors, epidemiology, prevention, behavioral science, and information dissemination.

"Through sophisticated behavioral and social science research," said Leshner, NIDA has derived fundamental principles involved with the changes that are associated with drug abuse and what to do about those changes. He emphasized that "the risk factors for drug abuse are the same as the risk factors for everything bad that can happen to you." He added that most of the individuals vulnerable to these risk factors don't use drugs.

Leshner also stressed that there are a large number of effective treatments available, but that there is "no cookie cutter" treatment. Treatment matching has to be done and it has to be done more than once. While the treatments are effective, drug addiction is a chronic relapsing condition and boosters are needed, he said.

NIDA's Treatment Initiative

NIDA's next step, said Leshner, is a treatment initiative that builds on the science and is geared to respond to the public health crisis — how to move the research from the lab to the field. The Initiative will focus on improving drug abuse and addiction treatment through basic and clinical research with particular emphasis on medications development in combination with behavioral therapies. Leshner added that while medications development has the "advantage of science," additional behavioral therapies research is needed. The Institute is also

currently working to a find way to fund large scale clinical trials.

Leshner stressed that youth are a part of the treatment initiative. NIDA will look at both prevention and prenatal development. Drugs are a children's issue, said Leshner, emphasizing that the average age of initial use is 13.2 years of age. NIDA's prevention is directed at young people. There is a need to balance the risk factors and the protective factors, he emphasized. He observed that while the public was no longer worried about the effect of prenatal exposure to drugs on individuals, there are very subtle and important behavioral effects associated with prenatal exposure to drugs.

COSSA WELCOMES NEW AFFILIATE, CONTRIBUTOR

The Consortium would like to welcome the American Association for Agricultural Education as its newest Affiliate and the University of California, Santa Cruz as its newest contributor. We look forward to working with both on projects of mutual interest.

EDITOR'S NOTE

COSSA has compiled an index of all 1997 *UPDATEs*. The list is broken down into subject terms, including all the relevant federal agencies. The index is a helpful reference and allows you to quickly find information; if you are interested in obtaining a copy, contact COSSA at 202-842-3525 or fax your request at 202-842-2788.

NIJ LECTURE SERIES

The National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) lecture series, entitled "Perspectives on Crime and Justice," features the nation's leading criminologists. Future lectures in NIJ's lecture series are listed below. All lectures begin promptly at 8:15am and are held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill, located at 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW. There is no charge for the lecture, but a reservation is required. To reserve a seat, call 703-684-5300, or FAX 703-739-5533. The deadline to RSVP is one week before the scheduled event.

- March 3 1998, David Musto, "The American Experience with Stimulants and Opiates"
- April 1, 1998, Joan Petersilia, "If Not Prison, What? Assessing Alternative Punishments"
- May 5, 1998, Philip Cook, "The Epidemic of Youth Gun Violence"

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT

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.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

The purpose of this program is to provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities by focusing on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education. **Deadline** for transmittal of applications is **March 20, 1998**. For applications or information contact: Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 3100, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5175, (202) 358-3041. Applications are also listed on the FIPSE Web Page, <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE>.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) seeks to stimulate the design, development and testing of alcohol-related HIV preventive interventions that have the potential for reducing the risk of transmission of HIV in alcohol using, abusing and dependent populations. **Deadlines** for **Letter of Intent** is **March 20, 1998** and for the **Application** is **April 21, 1998**. For program inquiries contact: Kendall Bryant, Ph.D., Division of Clinical and Prevention Research, NIAAA, 6000 Executive Boulevard MSC 7003, Bethesda, MD 20892-7003. Phone (301) 443-8820; Email: kbryant@willco.niaaa.nih.gov.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The purpose of the FY 1998 Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention (EJP2) grant program is to support the use of pollution prevention approaches to address the environmental problems of minority communities and/or low-income communities and Federally recognized tribes. Projects funded under this grant may involve public education, training, demonstration projects, collaborative public-private partnerships or innovative approaches to develop, evaluate and demonstrate non-regulatory strategies and technologies. Applications must be received by April 20, 1998. For further information contact: Louise Littel at (703) 841-0483 or get a complete electronic copy of the application package through the EPA Web Page, <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/ejp2>.

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Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
Urban Affairs Association

CONTRIBUTORS

American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
University of Arizona
Bowling Green State University
Brookings Institution
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
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Consortium of Social Science Associations

1522 K Street, N.W., Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005
