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### COSSA Testifies To House CJS Appropriations Panel

On April 14, COSSA Executive Director Howard J. Silver, joined many other members from the scientific community in presenting testimony to the House Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV). The session was a make-up from an earlier scheduled hearing that was wiped out by one of Washington's major snow storms in February.

In the four to five minutes allotted to him, Silver made the case for the FY 2011 budgets for five agencies under the jurisdiction of the CJS panel. They included the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

With regard to NSF, Silver supported the President's requested FY 2011 budget of \$7.424 billion. He thanked the Subcommittee for providing the additional \$3 billion in FY 2009 to NSF in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and for its continued support for ALL the sciences NSF supports.

He bemoaned the continual small increases for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate, especially in light of the importance of the research conducted by these scientists with regard to the major issues facing the nation and the world: climate change, energy use, terrorism, learning, and understanding political, economic, and social behavior. Silver indicated that some of NSF's interdisciplinary, cross-directorate initiatives in sustainability, cyberinfrastructure, the environmental, safety, health and social implications of nanotechnology, and the science of science and innovation policy, are all areas where SBE scientists made and continue to make contributions. He also cited the 2009 Nobel Prizes won by political scientist Elinor Ostrom and economist Oliver Williamson.

Discussing the Subcommittee's major interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, Silver asserted that the SBE sciences have a major role to play with their research on learning and teaching in the NSF-supported Science of Learning Centers and elsewhere and the research and evaluation of STEM programs that are slated for enhanced funding in the proposed FY 2011 budget for the Education and Human Resources directorate. He also strongly argued that the SBE sciences are part of the "S" in STEM.

Finally, Silver supported NSF's efforts in enhancing diversity and broadening participation in the sciences. He cited COSSA's own efforts in this area including its leadership of the Collaborative for Enhancing Diversity in the Sciences and its activities; a retreat in 2008, a congressional briefing in 2009, and planning for another event in 2010.

Turning to the Department of Justice, Silver expressed COSSA's appreciation for the Subcommittee's funding of the large increase for BJS in FY 2010 to help revitalize the National Crime Victimization Survey. He supported the FY 2011 proposed increase to \$62.5 million.

He then suggested that for FY 2011 the Administration had decided to revitalize NIJ. He strongly supported the proposed \$22 million increase to \$70 million. Silver told the Subcommittee that social science research at NIJ strived to provide an evidence base for crime and criminal justice policy. He indicated that police chiefs around the country want and need this information. He referred to his written testimony with testimonials to research from police leaders in Lincoln, NE, Redlands, CA, and Cincinnati, OH. He also reminded the panel that the National Academies' review of NIJ's structure and activities is scheduled for release in the near future.

Silver declared COSSA's support for the FY 2011 proposed budget for the activities of the Census Bureau. As a member of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, he noted the progress on the decennial count and reported on the preliminary discussions looking ahead to the 2020 count (see other story). He expressed support for the requested increase to enhance the sample size for the American Community Survey.

Finally, he discussed the significant increase proposed for FY 2011 for the BEA. He told the panel it was time to improve the economic statistics of the country and that BEA's increase would enhance these data by permitting the agency to release GDP data by industry quarterly rather than annually as well as obtain better measures of the actual income circumstances of individuals, providing better ways to foresee jolts to the economy. In addition, the proposed increase would provide improved data on Foreign Direct Investment in the U.S., increasingly important to states and private businesses, and improved statistics about the energy sector of the U.S. economy, which is undergoing important changes.

Silver's written testimony submitted to the Subcommittee can be found at: [www.cossa.org](http://www.cossa.org).

## House Science Panel Reports NSF Reauthorization

On April 14, the Research and Science Education Subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee reported its version of the 2010 National Science Foundation (NSF) reauthorization act. Part of the renewal of the America COMPETES Act, the NSF reauthorization will get marked up by the full S&T Committee when it considers all the parts of COMPETES on April 28.

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL) noted NSF's establishment 60 years ago to support fundamental research and education in all Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines and declared "it has worked." The bill authorizes NSF for five more years from FY 2011 to FY 2016 and includes authorized levels of funding for each year that keeps it on a doubling track

over seven years. Ranking Republican on the Subcommittee Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI) remarked that "the bill we are considering today further strengthens the NSF and improves our nation's ability to compete globally." At the same time he expressed "a few reservations" about some of the provisions and noted his Republican colleagues concern about the "excessively high" levels of funding. An attempt by Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX) to reduce the authorization to three years, thereby reducing the overall cost of the bill failed.

The bill includes amplifications to the NSF's merit review system's second "broader impacts" provision. It asks NSF to apply "a broader impacts review criterion" for reviewing proposals that would consist of eight national goals including increasing: economic competitiveness, a globally competitive STEM workforce, participation of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM, partnerships between academia and industry, public scientific literacy, and national security. The other criteria are to improve K-12 STEM education and teacher development and undergraduate STEM education.

The panel's legislation also requires NSF to use at least five percent of its research budget to "fund basic, high-risk, high-reward research proposals" and to develop specific solicitations for this purpose. Another provision provides for competitive, merit-based awards not to exceed \$5 million over a period of up to five years "to interdisciplinary research collaborations that are likely to assist in addressing critical challenges to national security, competitiveness, and societal well-being." The Subcommittee suggests that in choosing recipients for these awards, priority should go to applicants "that propose to use advances in cyberinfrastructure and simulation-based science engineering."

The National Science Board is called upon to "evaluate the needs, across all disciplines supported by the Foundation, for mid-scale research instrumentation." The bill defines this as instruments that fall between those funded by the Major Research Instrumentation program and the very large projects funded by NSF's Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction program. The three major NSF-funded social science surveys - the Panel Study on Income Dynamics, the General Social Survey and the American National Election Studies - would fall into this mid-scale category.

With regard to NSF's Education programs, the legislation provides equitable funding for NSF's Graduate Student Fellows program and its Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program. It also creates a new program to award grants to institutions of higher education to reform undergraduate STEM education as well as increasing the opportunities for research experiences for groups of undergraduate students. Another provision establishes a postdoctoral fellowship program to "encourage recent doctoral degree graduates in STEM fields to pursue STEM education research and become leaders in STEM education reform." An amendment offered by Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) and accepted by the panel would require the NSF Director and the Secretary of Education to collaborate on identifying and developing strategies to address "grand challenges in research and development" for STEM education in both formal and informal settings.

### SRS Gets Name Change

The legislation codifies and changes the name of NSF's Division of Science, Resources, Statistics (SRS) in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate. When the bill becomes law SRS will become the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES?) and act as a "Federal clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, analysis, and dissemination of objective data on science, engineering, technology, and research and development."

During markup Lipinski offered and the Subcommittee accepted an amendment to create a pilot program to award innovation inducement cash prizes. The award would go to scientists who have investigated "high-risk, high-reward research challenges and problems whose solution could improve the economic competitiveness of the Untied States."

Finally, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) offered an amendment, accepted by the Subcommittee, that would prohibit any realignment or consolidation of NSF's Undergraduate Broadening

Participation programs, as NSF has proposed in its FY 2011 budget submission (see Update [March 8](#) and [March 22, 2010](#)), without the Director developing a plan "to clarify the objectives and rationale for such changes." She suggested the current proposed changes did not receive enough input from affected stakeholders and threatened to vote against the whole bill, if her amendment was thwarted.

## 2010 Census Advisory Committee Meets: Looks Ahead to 2020

The mailback phase of Census 2010 came to an end on April 16. The Non-Response Follow-Up (NRFU) conducted by the Bureau to find those who did not return their questionnaires will begin on May 1. On April 8 and 9, the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, of which COSSA is a member, met and although there was plenty of discussion of this year's count, it was also time to look ahead to the next ten years.

As of April 16, the participation rate for the mailback of the 2010 Census form was 68 percent, compared to a comparable figure of 72 percent in 2000. The Bureau expects the 2010 number to move up a bit after the weekend returns are logged in. Given the difficulties facing the 2010 count from the vacant housing caused by the recession to the impact of immigrant fears to political sniping as well as the general decline in response rates to surveys, the mailback participation is within the expected range. The Bureau spent considerable sums on advertising and worked with partners and local governments to entice people to respond by mail. The Bureau and the Gallup Organization were able to track daily returns by census tract, enabling targeting of efforts. Census Director Bob Groves expressed satisfaction in the Bureau's ability to work with real-time data, but also voiced his frustration with the familiar patterns of non-response. There are indications that the outreach activities worked well in some hard-to-count areas, while difficulties remained in many others. The Bureau has a lot of follow-up research to conduct.

With NRFU on the immediate horizon and the results and their impact on reapportionment, redistricting, and federal fund formulae still to come, the 2010 counts will remain the focus of the Bureau's efforts and Congressional oversight for the foreseeable future.

At the same time, the Advisory Committee heard about the onset of planning for the next Census in 2020. Deputy Director Tom Mesenbourg explained the Corporate Priority Setting the bureau will undertake to "identify strategic priorities and cost efficiency opportunities." This will affect not only planning for the next decennial, but the other programs the Bureau supports. The strategic themes, according to Mesenbourg, include: improved internal and external collaboration; adopting responsive, adaptable, and resilient designs; standardizing and simplifying work processes; data-driven decision making through innovative analysis and use of data; and wise governance and corporate standards. The Bureau has solicited ideas on each of these and will continue to work on implementing those that seem most promising.

### Key Issue for 2020 Census: Bringing Costs Under Control

In a presentation on planning for the 2020 Census, Daniel Weinberg, Assistant Director for the American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census, declared that a key goal for the next decennial will be to bring the costs of the count under control. He noted that 2010 will be the most expensive census in history. Yet, he indicated, as we move to 2020 the nation will become more demographically and culturally diverse, "with a growing population characterized in part by informal, complex living arrangements and by swiftly evolving technology."

To bring costs under control will "require fundamental change," Weinberg asserted. Most important, he declared, was: "Robust, early planning and investment in research." In addition, "a substantial change in approach must occur in order to link budget, risk, schedule, and acquisition to planning research, development, and testing," he argued.

His preliminary conclusions are that achieving reduction of costs for 2020 can occur by: 1) tailoring methods to the many and diverse subgroups of the population (such as through the use of the Internet to gather information from the technologically literate); 2) reusing administrative data where possible (such as for non-response); 3) designing software to reduce staff time; and 4) updating continuously the address frame over the decade. The Bureau has indicated in its FY 2011 budget submission its intention to carry out #4.

In its preliminary thinking, Weinberg reported, the Bureau is examining six possible operational design alternatives that would affect address canvassing, use of administrative records for follow-up, self-response enumeration, and the field infrastructure. The first would simply enhance the baseline from the 2010 Census. The second would move to a mixed-mode; part electronic, part mailback enumeration, but still include a person visit follow-up, with targeted address canvassing, and a decentralized field infrastructure. The third would include using administrative records as well as person follow-up. The fourth would rely mostly on administrative records for follow-up and include targeted address canvassing and mixed mode enumeration. The fifth would go to almost all electronic responses, eliminate address canvassing and local field offices. The sixth would rely on administrative records for follow-up with a mixed mode self-response, but no address canvassing and no local field offices.

The Bureau intends to conduct research on all of these alternatives in the next few years, including using the annual ACS to test software and hardware improvements. The ACS plans an Internet self-response test in 2011.

Participating as a formal discussant on Weinberg's presentation, COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver picked up on his comment about the increasing diversity of the nation as we move forward. He suggested a continued focus on the changing nature of race and ethnicity in the country illustrated by the debate within the Advisory Committee on the use of "Negro" on the 2010 questionnaire. The word remained for 2010 despite objections by many in the African American community. Silver suggested some see the United States moving into a post-racial era. President Obama's election is referred to as a key event in this movement, as well as the continued attempts by people such as Ward Connerly to eliminate race from surveys and affirmative action. In addition, surveys of young people, such as the Pew Center's study of the Millennial Generation, appear to reinforce this notion of a post-racial nation. At the same time, there is a continued racial and ethnic pride both personal and community-wide throughout America.

Trying to measure the tension between these changing views of race and ethnicity is a challenge to the society as well as the Census Bureau in the coming years, Silver concluded. Weinberg responded that the Office of Management and Budget will during this decade once again examine its definition of race and ethnicity for federal surveys, including the Census. We should also expect those who have congressional oversight responsibility for the Census to weigh in on this issue as well.

## President Obama Announces Selections for Presidential Bioethics Commission

On April 7, President Barack Obama announced his selections for the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues. The Commission will advise the President on bioethical issues that may emerge from advances in biomedicine and related areas of science and technology. It will work with the goal of identifying and promoting policies and practices that ensure scientific research, health care delivery, and technological innovation are conducted in an ethically responsible manner. Current Chair, Amy Gutmann, and Vice-Chair, James Wagner, were announced when Obama signed the Executive Order 13521 on November 24, 2009, creating the new Presidential Commission (see Update, [December 14, 2009](#)). Newly selected members

include:

- **Lonnie Ali** - the wife of Muhammad Ali is an outspoken advocate working to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease as well as increase funding for research.
- **Anita L. Allen** - the Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania Law School where she also serves as Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs of the school and Senior Fellow in the Bioethics Department, School of Medicine.
- **Barbara Atkinson** - the Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center who concurrently serves as the Executive Dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine.
- **Nita A. Farahany** - an Associate Professor of Law and Philosophy at Vanderbilt University. Her research focuses on the legal, philosophical, and social issues arising from developments in the biosciences, particularly behavioral genetics and neuroscience.
- **Alexander G. Garza** - the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Homeland Security
- **Christine Grady** - the Acting Chief of the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center. Her research focuses on research subject recruitment, incentives, vulnerability, and international research ethics.
- **Stephen L. Hauser** - the Robert A. Fishman Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco.
- **Raju Kucherlapati** - the Paul C. Cabot Professor in the Harvard Medical School Department of Genetics. He is also a professor in the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.
- **Nelson Michael** - the Director of the Division of Retrovirology at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the Director of the U.S. Military HIV Research program (MHRP).
- **Daniel Sulmasy** - a Franciscan Friar, who holds the Kilbride-Clinton Chair in Medicine and Ethics in the Department of Medicine and Divinity School and is associate director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago.

Similar panels include President Bush's 2001 [President's Council on Bioethics](#) which replaced President Clinton's [National Bioethics Advisory Commission](#), created in 1996. Additional information on former commissions and their publications is provided on the [Bioethics.gov](#) website.

## "G" Party Comes to Washington: Honors Goodall, Volkow; Hears Krugman.

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) brought over 8,000 members to Washington, DC for its annual convention on April 14-18. This "G" party did not get as much ink as the one that is named after a drink, but it did include a number of high profile talks as well as hundreds of panels covering all aspect of geographic research.

One of the many highlights of the event included the presentation of the AAG's first Atlas Award to Jane Goodall. The award, explained AAG Executive Director Douglas Richardson, "is designed to recognize and celebrate outstanding accomplishments that advance world understanding in exceptional ways." Following acceptance of the award, Goodall reflected on her fifty years of studying the behavior of chimpanzees in Gombe National Park in Tanzania and her recent work as a U.N. Millennium Ambassador for Peace. She gave enormous credit to her mother, who not only encouraged her desire to work with animals in Africa, but accompanied Goodall on her early explorations in Tanzania. Like many other naturalists, she decried the environmental changes that humans have wrought in the past fifty years and the diminution of animal species and their habitats. An associate in the Jane Goodall Institute described the use of modern Geographic Information Systems to expand forest land on the edge of Gombe National Park. The Institute and a

program called "Roots and Shoots," that works with young people, are part of the legacy of Goodall's work. She now spends most of the year traveling the world challenging people to understand the value of studying animal behavior, the importance of saving the planet from environmental degradation, and the need for humans to use the intelligence that distinguishes them from the animal kingdom to achieve peace on earth.

### Volkow Honorary Geographer

The AAG also declared National Institute on Drug Abuse director Nora Volkow as its 2010 Honorary Geographer. The award recognizes excellence in research, teaching, or writing on geographic topics by non-geographers. In 2006, Volkow coordinated with the AAG to develop a special Symposium on Geography and Drug Abuse, which took place in conjunction with the AAG Annual Meeting. Subsequent interactions between geographers and medical researchers have resulted in a recent book, *Geography and Drug Addiction*, which was published in 2008 and explores new ground in the analysis of the complex processes of drug addiction and treatment. According to Executive Director Douglas Richardson, Volkow's work with the AAG has helped establish an extraordinarily fertile new field for geographic research, and has influenced research agendas at NIDA, and more broadly at NIH.

Noting that Volkow's leadership has been instrumental in demonstrating that drug addiction is a disease of the human brain, AAG recognized her pioneering use of brain imaging to "map" the toxic effects of drugs and their addictive properties. Richardson pointed out that these studies have resonated deeply with the geographic and health communities. The association further highlighted that in her efforts to better understand how and why people become addicted to drugs and what can be done to stop it, Volkow has demonstrated a willingness to think creatively beyond the bounds of her own discipline. Working collaboratively with the AAG, she has increasingly focused on the ways that geographical context influences drug addiction, leading to a better understanding of its etiology, its diffusion, and its interaction with geographically variable social, economic, and environmental factors, Richardson noted.

### Krugman on Economic Geography

Nobel Prize winner for Economics in 2008, New York Times columnist, and Princeton Professor Paul Krugman also addressed the meeting. His Nobel was given for his work integrating "the previously disparate research fields of international trade and economic geography." In his talk, Krugman revisited some of his early work, especially his 1991 book *Geography and Trade*. He bemoaned the impression that "over much of the past three decades the methodologies of geographers and economists have been steadily diverging." He noted that at the same time economists have studied important economic questions using urban and regional data.

Krugman cited his "core-periphery model" from 1991 that examined transport costs, economies of scale, and the importance of region to manufacturing. However, he noted, it appears that most economic geographers have focused on "industry localization" in their work. This focus, he argued, does not give an accurate picture of today's economy, especially in the U.S. as regional specialization and industrial localizations have disappeared. He concluded: "In 21<sup>st</sup> Century America, as compared with mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century America, there is much less sense that places are defined by what they do for a living."

Where do you find "core-periphery" patterns as well as "industrial localization" these days? Krugman said go to China, where massive migration from central and western China to the coastal region has provided homes "to hundreds if not thousands of local industrial clusters." It is also a "localization" that produces for a global market, emulating late-19<sup>th</sup> Century Great Britain, rather than 19<sup>th</sup> Century America.

He ended by suggesting that "getting economists to think about location and spatial structure is nonetheless significant progress" over a generation ago when mainstream economists hardly thought

at all about the location of production within countries or hardly looked at local and regional data for evidence.

The text of Krugman's talk is available at: <http://www.princeton.edu/~pkrugman/aag.pdf>.

### The Politics of Water Power

The meeting also included an address by AAG's Past President John Agnew of UCLA discussing the politics of water power. He called it the "defining issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," where both domestic and international disputes have or will arise. The importance of water to geographers, he indicated was that it was tied to place. Agnew argued that rather than seeking technological fixes through the "scientific certitude, we should seek practical political solutions."

He suggested we should take a "realist view of politics" that understands the contexts of and social influences on any situation and uses pragmatic rules to provide effective results. Agnew claimed that no war has ever been fought over water use and that negotiations, which he noted, worked during the U.S./U.S.S.R. Cold War era, are possible, especially when the politics of water involves "special districts" that cross traditional geo-political areas. He remarked that even the "dysfunctional California legislature" has been able to agree on a plan to reorient the water flows in that state.

### Enhancing Diversity in Geography

The meeting also had a special focus on enhancing diversity, sessions looked at: Ethnic Diversity in Geography: Departmental Champions; Student recruitment, retention & issues of diversity in graduate and undergraduate programs; Broadening Participation and Enhancing Diversity through Community Colleges; Institutional Perspectives on Broadening Participation and Enhancing Diversity in Higher Education; Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences: Programs and Partnerships; Conceptualizing and Measuring Residential Segregation; Transportation and Social Exclusion: Current Research and Emerging Themes; Supporting Women In Geography: Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Perspectives; and Gender, Sexuality, and Space.

In a discussion of the need for departmental champions when it comes to increasing the diversity of geography, Joe Darden of Michigan State University, Fenda Akiwumi of the University of South Florida and Carlos Teixeira of the University of British Columbia discussed AAG's efforts to enhance diversity. A Diversity Task Force created by Executive Director Doug Richardson, of which Darden was a member, conducted a three-year study. The group's deliberations ended with the release of *An Action Strategy for Geography Departments as Agents of Change: A Report of the AAG Diversity Task Force* in October 2006.

The report reflects the most recent organized and institutional effort by the AAG Council to enhance diversity, especially for African Americans and Latinos, the most underrepresented groups in geography. The panel acknowledged that efforts to enhance diversity in the discipline can be traced back forty years. According to the report, the recommendations were strongly influenced not only by the severe lack of diversity in geography departments, but also by the Minority Opportunities through School Transformations (MOST) program. The report acknowledges that the American Sociological Association conceived MOST with the intention of finding ways to alter "business as usual" practices at colleges and universities.

The panel cited the need for the AAG, its Council and Central Office to place more emphasis and resources on improving diversity in the discipline by institutionalizing the Task Force work within the structure of the association. The report's recommendations include:

- The department chair and the faculty who are the best ambassadors to participate in outreach and to sell geography to a diverse population should first develop a recruitment plan.
- Departments of degree-granting institutions should engage in outreach to local community and commuter colleges, since they are a source of great student diversity.

-In recruiting undergraduate students to geography, departments in states with the largest percentage of racial minorities should take the lead and serve as role models.

-The faculty, under the strong leadership of the chairperson, should provide training in the discipline of geography via summer workshops focusing on geography and/or Geographic Information Systems for teachers, especially minority teachers, who teach in junior high and high schools with large minority enrollments.

-Each Ph.D.-granting department of geography should develop a recruitment program with the agenda of recruiting and funding at least one minority student annually (via a graduate assistantship if possible but a fellowship if necessary). The commitment of financial support should be at least six years from the awarding of the baccalaureate to completion of the doctorate.

-Departments should establish a policy that clearly indicates the importance of diversity in the faculty search process. This important departmental policy should emphasize that the search committee must be as diverse as possible and that the final list of candidates to be interviewed must also be as diverse as possible based on the available pool.

-Departments should conduct reviews of their curricula to determine the degree to which diversity is included and, if necessary, change the curricula to make them more relevant to today's racially and ethnically diverse society.

-Each department should regularly assess its "departmental climate" to ensure that it is, ideally, free of tensions and hostility and that it fosters a healthy, constructive and inclusive environment for all groups--students, faculty, and support staff.

-Departments and the AAG Central Office should construct websites that clearly underscore the unwavering commitment to diversity.

The report provides models of diversity programs that resulted in measurable change designed to assist the departments in their efforts to enhance diversity.

In response to the Task Force's recommendations, AAG created a Diversity Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is designed to allow individuals and departments to search for information on diversity in geography at all levels of education. Users can also find practical resources, case studies, and model programs that can support local efforts to diversify educational and research programs in geography. The Clearinghouse includes examples from geography departments and projects, but also includes links to programs from outside of geography that provide promising methods for enhancing diversity within departments and institutions. The Clearinghouse also includes a [searchable database](#) that organizes content by grade-level, audience, and program objectives. A copy of the Final Diversity Task Force Report is available at: [http://communicate.aag.org/eseries/Diversity/DTF\\_FINAL.pdf](http://communicate.aag.org/eseries/Diversity/DTF_FINAL.pdf).

## **Institutional Perspectives on Broadening Participation and Enhancing Diversity in Higher Education**

The meeting also included a session examining the *Institutional Perspectives on Broadening Participation and Enhancing Diversity in Higher Education* that discussed efforts made by two of COSSA's members the American Sociological Association (ASA) and American Psychological Association (APA) as well as the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to address diversity issues.

Felice Levine, currently Executive Director of the American Educational Research Association, observed that there are a variety of strategies for enhancing diversity and that the social and behavioral sciences had taken the lead in designing programs. She also emphasized the importance

of a symbolic message. Levine pointed out that the ASA's, where she was the former Executive Officer, and the APA's Minority Fellowship Programs (MFP), once funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, changed the shape, nature, and demographics of those two fields. She described the NIMH training programs as a "jewel in a crown" and with each renewal they could talk about the cohorts. She acknowledged the funding provided by the Ford Foundation to ASA out of which came the MOST program and stressed that it is important to work at the national level. Working with 18 departments, Levine noted, was "very catalytic" and created a safe haven for conversation. She concluded by noting that national leadership from a funding aspect is less prevalent today.

Following Levine's themes, Gwendolyn Puryear Keita of APA emphasized the importance of national level funding and noted that her organization had supported 900 Ph.D. students since the inception of the APA's MFP. She noted that while the NIMH funding had ended, the association still received support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Keita also emphasized that APA made a commitment at the national level to underrepresented groups including women, the disabled, LGBT, aging, ethnic/minority, AIDS, and violence prevention. They are housed in a common division that focuses on a specific underrepresented group. That focused effort was not only to include more women but to increase their presence in leadership positions. The APA looked at the factors preventing women from achieving success and the difficulties the faculty faced. Keita noted that they also focused on other issues such as textbooks and careers, both critical to enhancing diversity. The Association also looked at such issues as what is important for the field to know, and what to do for people who come from poor backgrounds. At the national level, said Keita, the APA put in policies of accountability and guidelines. For the APA, Keita explained, diversity is a core value for the CEO and part of the strategic plan.

Shirley Malcom explained that AAAS is a large and generally multidisciplinary organization of which the AAG is an affiliate. She emphasized that all of the pieces are connected and stressed that public support and engagement is essential. The AAAS, Malcom reported, started its emphasis on diversity in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Association has done the research, said Malcom, pointing to an early study which looked at rosters. The thought was that if we know who they were everything would fall in place. That did not happen. Over the years, the AAAS has looked at the programs put into place and has monitored the data, tracking progress over time and rewarding those who have done a good job. Malcom also stressed that policies have to be put in place to let things happen. If we don't have a supportive policy structure then we can't get there, she asserted. She concluded by explaining that the biggest challenge for enhancing diversity has been moving away from the right, legal, moral thing to do to moving toward diversity because we get innovation, better ideas, and it makes a lot sense.

## School Safety, Youth Violence and Bullying Focus of Journal and Briefing

The most recent issue of the American Educational Research Association's (AERA) journal, *Education Researcher*, looks at "New Strategies for Keeping Schools Safe: Evidence-based Approaches to Prevent Youth Violence." The articles examine various elements of school safety from high profile incidences of violence to everyday disruptive behavior and the policies schools are implementing to make them safer. On April 8, AERA presented material from the issue in a briefing on Capitol Hill.

Violence in our nation's schools is not a new phenomenon. Congressional inquiries into increases in school violence have occurred since the 1950s when "juvenile delinquency" became a political and cultural phenomenon. However, despite its overexposure in the media extreme acts of school violence are not increasing and mass violence incidents such as school shootings are rare. While

such high profile events are attention grabbers, insufficient attention has been given to the much more pervasive forms of aggression. The most common forms of student aggression are bullying and disruptive behavior. Matt Mayer, the journal's co-editor from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, emphasized the need to focus on the much more complex issue of school safety rather than just school violence.

Low level aggression, disruptive behavior, and bullying remain at high levels in schools. Bullying, in particular, is a pervasive problem with often damaging physical as well as psychological effects. According to Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2009, in 2007 32 percent of secondary students reported experiencing bullying at or around school, ranging from 42.9 percent of 6th grade students to 23.5 percent of 12th graders. Nine percent of all students reported they had received injuries due to bullying. For 6th graders the figure was 14.4 percent.

Many of the popular policy solutions that have been introduced in response to concerns about school safety, such as zero tolerance and increased security measures, have been shown to be counterproductive. Zero tolerance policies have expanded dramatically in many school districts to include automatic suspension or expulsion for minor disciplinary infractions. Research has linked frequent suspensions from school to academic failure, disengagement from school and antisocial behaviors all of which could lead to an increased probability of a student dropping out.

"The rhetoric of lawmakers often is not tied to sound policy. Zero tolerance policies fail to improve school safety. These punitive policies are put in place to make us feel safe, but actually do nothing at all and may lead to detrimental effects," said Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), who spoke at the event.

Despite the negative effects, school districts continue to use suspensions as a way to maintain order and a semblance of school safety. In 2006, 3.3 million students were suspended. Anne Gregory a contributor to the journal also from Rutgers, noted black students are often disproportionately suspended compared to white students. In 2005, 4.8 percent of all white students were suspended compared with 15 percent of black students. This gap holds true regardless of the student's social economic status. So not only is there a black/white achievement gap there is also a discipline gap, and in many cases the latter may exacerbate the former, Gregory suggested.

She also mentioned that colleges of education could play a major role in preparing future teachers for recognizing the signs of bullying and dealing with it in a constructive way. Some colleges of education have added classroom management skills to their curriculum. However, with increasing curriculum demands and pressures not all colleges of education have sought this extra burden. To address the problem of school safety and to ensure teachers are better prepared some states are attempting to mandate requirements that colleges of education at state universities add classroom management, how to handle disruptive behavior, and how to recognize the signs of bullying, to their curriculum.

David Osher of the American Enterprise Institute argued that research supports two widely used universal approaches to school discipline and student behavioral regulation. One is Schoolwide Positive Behavioral Supports (SWPBS) in which adults need to organize schools to proactively support appropriate behavior and believe that they can create conditions for teaching and learning. The second is Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) where students need to be able to manage their emotions and relationships and make pro-social choices. Both are necessary; neither alone is always sufficient, Osher concluded.

For more information on this event go to the American Educational Research Association at:  
[http://www.aera.net/newsmedia/Default.aspx?menu\\_id=60&id=9616](http://www.aera.net/newsmedia/Default.aspx?menu_id=60&id=9616).

## Increasingly Urban World

On April 9 the Population Association of America (PAA) held a congressional briefing on the impact of climate change in an increasingly urban world. The panel included presentations from Mark Montgomery of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Deborah Balk of the City University of New York Institute of Demographic Research, and Brian O'Neill of the National Center for Atmospheric Research and was moderated by Washington Post reporter Juliet Eilperin.

The panel discussed how future population size, composition, and distribution will affect climate change adaptation, how demographic trends affect future emissions and mitigation efforts, and how to limit the threat of climate change to urban populations, particularly those living in coastal zones or arid cities.

According to a summary from the American Statistical Association's Climate Change Policy Advisory Committee, large increases in world population lie ahead, with almost all growth occurring in the cities and towns of poor countries. Specifically most future population growth will take place in Asian and African cities and towns with high rates of fertility as the driving force. Montgomery reaffirmed the increase of city growth in poor countries with urban dwellers more likely to face climate-related risks. "Even today, city-dwellers in these countries are exposed to risks of severe flooding, landslides, drought, and water scarcity. These risks likely to increase in severity and frequency as global climate change proceeds," he remarked.

Balk added that the distribution of cities and urban populations is uneven with more urban dwellers living in arid cities than in other ecozones. Coastal and arid zones present unique challenges with respect to climate change, noted Balk. Solving the problem presents its own problems. "Climate change is global, but adaptation is local. Effective adaptation requires a base of adequate infrastructure- i.e. development and building community and national databases that can supply knowledge to guide adaptation and give the urban poor a voice," she said.

The panel agreed that knowledge and data infrastructures are essential for researchers and policy makers alike. However, national governments often transfer responsibilities into hands of state and municipal governments, which typically lack the resources and expertise to forecast risks and manage programs of climate change adaptation. National, regional and municipal governments in poor countries will need urban adaptation strategies that are spatially specific, focusing on individual cities and neighborhoods within them. "Exposures to climate-related risks are being documented by bio-geophysical scientists, but vulnerability varies greatly across cities and their neighborhoods," said Montgomery. He recommended increased support for more research where social scientists link with bio-geophysical scientists and international with local researchers. Montgomery also proposed disaggregating national census data to political jurisdictions where urban adaptation decisions need to be made and using national sample surveys and other accessible data to forecast city population growth by risk zone.

O'Neill focused on the impact of demographic change on carbon emissions. He indicated that demographic change - including urbanization - matters to anticipating future demand for energy and associated carbon emissions. He posited that aging can have a significant negative impact on emissions in industrialized countries, leading to reductions in the long run. On the other hand, agreeing with his colleagues on the panel, he contended that urbanization can lead to increased emissions in developing countries over the next few decades. O'Neill concluded that "Slower population growth cannot solve the climate problem, but it can make the job easier."

## Coalition Holds Annual Exhibition: Social and Behavioral Sciences Well Represented

The 16th Annual Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) Exhibition and Reception on Capitol Hill entitled: *Building the Foundations of Innovation: STEM Research and Education* was held on April 14. The Exhibition highlighted 37 research and education projects made possible through funding by the National Science Foundation. COSSA, whose Executive Director Howard Silver chaired CNSF from 1994-2000, was a co-sponsor of the event.

Among the 37 exhibits were eight that highlighted social and behavioral science research. They included:

-*The Math and Science Teacher Shortage: What the Data Tell Us* presented by Richard M. Ingersoll of the University of Pennsylvania-Graduate School of Education, on behalf of the American Educational Research Association;

-*Digital Media and Children* presented by Daniel R. Anderson of the University of Massachusetts, on behalf of the American Psychological Association;

-*Poverty, Marriage and Trust: New Insights for Policymakers* presented by Linda Burton of Duke University, on behalf of the American Sociological Association;

-*People, Employers and Jobs: New Data, Reliable Analysis, Better Confidentiality* presented by John M. Abowd of Cornell University, on behalf of the American Economic Association;

-*Climate Change Effects on Tropospheric Ozone and Human Health* presented by Montserrat Fuentes of North Carolina State University, on behalf of the American Statistical Association;

-*Children's Social Understanding and Social Experience: Matters for STEM Education* presented by Melanie Killen of the University of Maryland, College Park, on behalf of the Society for Research in Child Development;

-*Panel Study of Income Dynamics* presented by Frank Stafford, representing the University of Michigan; and

-*The Effects of Emotion on Economic Decision Making* presented by Jennifer S. Lerner of Harvard University, on behalf of the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences

The attendees included NSF Director Arden Bement, Deputy Director Cora Marrett, and Assistant Director for NSF's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate Myron Gutmann. Nine members of Congress also viewed the exhibits: Reps. Brian Baird (D-WA), Vern Ehlers (R-MI), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Howard Coble (R-NC), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Walter Jones (R-NC), Brad Miller (D-NC), Mike Honda (D-CA), and Bill Foster (D-IL).

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is an alliance of over 125 organizations united by a concern for the future vitality of the national science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise. CNSF supports the goal of increasing the national investment in the National Science Foundation's research and education programs in response to the unprecedented scientific, technological and economic opportunities facing the United States.

## National Cancer Institute Funding Opportunity in Cancer Education and Career Development

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that continues its Cancer Education and Career Development Program (CECDP). CECDP is designed to support the development and implementation of institutional curriculum-dependent pre-doctoral/post-doctoral programs in the areas of cancer prevention and control, behavioral and population sciences research, nutrition, epidemiology, and/or biostatistics.

According to NCI, the program is the result of the Institute's realization that a team science approach with a focus on interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary didactic and laboratory research educational activities was the best way to address the dire need for cancer prevention and control researchers. Preparing junior and more experienced basic research scientists and clinicians for this new type of research environment requires research education and career development experiences in highly interdisciplinary and collaborative cancer research settings that are integrated with a specialized curriculum. These experiences will require access to multiple scientific disciplines and methodologies, involve mentors from more than one discipline, and will need tailoring to the individual research education needs of the investigator. Due to the likely breadth of the science involved, these experiences will frequently require facilitation and coordination across departments, schools, centers, and institutions; concerted management; and dedicated time of interdisciplinary faculty.

The award provides support to institutions for up to five years for the Project Director/ Principle Investigator (PD/PI) and an Advisory Committee to manage, coordinate, and evaluate the Program; for faculty to design, develop, implement, and continually refine the program curriculum; for the salaries of pre-doctoral and post-doctoral CECDP participants; and for other program-related research costs. NCI expect the programs to provide curriculum-based, multi-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary didactic and cancer-related collaborative education and research career development experiences for pre-doctoral and/or post-doctoral individuals. The programs are also expected to allow the participants to acquire the research and communication skills to conduct cancer research in an inter-disciplinary and highly collaborative team research setting.

The programs must provide individualized education and research career development experiences to accommodate the needs of pre-doctoral or post-doctoral individuals with different backgrounds and different levels of research experience. The expectation of the NCI is that candidates will enter the CECDP with different backgrounds that, initially, may satisfy some of the Core Requirements. Under these circumstances, they would be provided only with those additional didactic and research experiences that fully meet the overall research education objectives of the CECDP and that prepare them to conduct research in a highly collaborative research team setting.

The participating institution(s) must have well-established research programs and faculty qualified in curriculum development, implementation, and program evaluation to serve as faculty for the Program. The research environment should be team-oriented and highly collaborative with a strong potential for a dynamic two-way exchange of information and ideas within and across diverse and disparate disciplines, such as the physical, biomedical, behavioral, population, and quantitative (mathematics, computer sciences, etc.) sciences. The research environment should also be capable of supporting the rapid translation of research outcomes into reductions in cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality. Finally, institutional commitment is necessary to provide sustained leadership and dedicated faculty time to the development and implementation of the program as well as a commitment to the development of junior investigators as productive, independent investigators.

As of the end of FY2009, the NCI supported 43 funded programs at a total cost of \$18.8M. Included among these programs were four new programs and 39 existing programs.

Individuals completing an appointment to the CECDP have several options in seeking further support:

The NCI Cancer Prevention, Control, Behavioral and Population Sciences Career Development Award (K07) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-078.html>)

The NIH Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-060.html>)

The Howard Temin Pathway to Independence Award in Cancer Research (K99/R00) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-063.html>)

NCI Transition Career Award (K22) (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-089.html>).

For more information and/or to apply see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-165.html>.

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