



COSSA

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Senate Takes Up 'Minibus' FY 2012 Appropriations Bill

The Senate, in an effort to keep the FY 2012 appropriations process moving, spent the week of October 17 considering three of the twelve spending bills in a 'Minibus' package. The three - Agriculture and Rural Development; Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS); and Transportation/HUD - were presumed to have come out of committee with bipartisan support and few policy riders that plague some of the other spending bills.

Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) had hoped to finish the bill by the end of the week, but numerous amendments and the placing on the Senate calendar of other business, including the confirmation of the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget Heather

Higginbottom, prevented completion. The Senate will be in recess the week of October 24 and now expects to finish the 'Minibus' by November 1.

In its consideration of the 'Minibus,' none of the amendments so far have affected funding for the National Science Foundation or the Census Bureau. These two agencies have been targets of fund-shifting to others in the past. This has not happened and if the agreement to complete action on the bill holds, it appears that it will not happen this year.

Webb's Criminal Justice Commission Rejected

In the course of consideration of amendments to the 'Minibus,' the Senate rejected the inclusion of Sen. James Webb's (D-VA) proposal to establish a National Criminal Justice Commission. The amendment fell three votes short of the necessary 60 to incorporate it into the bill. All the Democrats and Independents supported Webb, but only four Republicans, Sens. Lindsay Graham (R-SC), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Scott Brown (R-MA), joined them.

Webb argued that: "Our criminal justice system is broken in many areas" and therefore "we need a national commission in order to take a look at the criminal justice system from point of apprehension all the way to reentry into society of people who have been incarcerated. We have not had this overarching national look since 1965." The Office of Justice Programs would have contributed \$5 million from its budget to fund the commission. The House had passed the legislation last year.

He received vocal support from Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), chair of the CJS Appropriations Subcommittee, who asserted that she supported the "national commission to do an 18-month, top-to-bottom review, examining costs and practices and policies for prevention, intervention, prosecution, and imprisonment, looking at which programs work and which can be improved. I hope it will end in concrete, wide-ranging reforms."

Webb introduced letters of support from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Heritage Foundation, the Prison Fellowship, and the Sentencing Project.

However, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) vigorously opposed the Commission, calling it an "overreach of gigantic proportions" and "the most massive encroachment on States rights I have seen in this body." She further argued that: "It is certainly within the purview of Congress to do a national commission to look at the Federal criminal justice system, but to go into State and local governments and purport to examine the criminal justice systems of our States and local governments is far beyond the reach of Congress, and it is certainly not a priority we should meet in appropriations bills when we are already in a deficit and debt crisis in this country." She also reported letters of opposition from the National District Attorney's Association and the National Police Officer's Association. This was enough to keep most of her Republican colleagues from supporting the bill.

When the Minibus is enacted, it will still leave the Senate with nine other spending bills to pass. The House has not passed any of its spending bills. The current Continuing Resolution runs out on November 18. The Deficit Reduction Committee (Supercommittee) is supposed to report on November 23. A large Omnibus Bill containing all 12 appropriations bills or a full-year Continuing Resolution (CR) may be the only solutions to the FY 2012 process.

Senate Confirms John Bryson as Secretary of Commerce

On October 20, the Senate by a vote of 74-26 confirmed John Bryson as the new Secretary of Commerce. Bryson had been nominated by President Obama on May 31 to replace Gary Locke, who is now the U.S. Ambassador to China. Rebecca Blank, former Dean of the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and former COSSA Annual Meeting Speaker, had been Acting Secretary since Locke's nomination as Ambassador in July 2011.

Blank will now revert back to her job as Acting Deputy Secretary, a position she has held since her elevation in November 2010 from Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, a job she still also holds.

Bryson, whose bailiwick includes the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, is the former Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and President of Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison. Since leaving the company in 2008, he has been an advisor to KKR, a private equity company. He was one of the co-founders and legal counsel for the National Resources Defense Council, a major environmental group. This position and his views on global warming, he believes it is happening, caused a hold on his nomination and led to the vigorous opposition of Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL).

The new Secretary has also been the chairman of the California State Water Resources Control Board, and the president of the California Public Utilities Commission. He has served on the Boards of the Boeing Company and Walt Disney Company

Bryson has his bachelor's degree from Stanford University, where he served on its Board of Trustees, and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

NIH Seeks 'Feedback' on Managing in 'Science in Fiscally Challenging Times'

Acknowledging that these are tough times for federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which has been experiencing "a relatively flat budget for the past seven years and facing a continuation of this pattern or perhaps even declining budgets for 2012 and beyond," Office of Extramural Research (OER) director Sally Rockey is seeking feedback via from the NIH extramural community. Rockey explained that: "The biomedical research enterprise is a partnership between NIH and the extramural community," and the agency does not "expect to make any changes to our processes without an in-depth discussion with you."

Accordingly, OER, as part of the deliberation process, has [posted](#) several funding scenarios, including "limiting the number of research program grant awards per investigator, the total amount of awards per investigator, the size of awards, or the amount of salary support paid by NIH." Comments can be sent to OER via an email box specifically to receive feedback on these issues, NIHResourceManagement@nih.gov or directly on Rockey's [blog](#), "Rock Talk."

COSSA Executive Director Speaks at University of Texas

Howard J. Silver, COSSA's Executive Director, at the invitation of the University of Texas' Population Research Center, directed by Mark Hayward, spoke at the University of Texas at Austin on October 14. His topic "Science in the Age of Austerity," reflected the difficulties the emphasis on federal budget deficits has placed on funding for research today and possibly into the future.

He had earlier given similar talks to the American Education Research Association on September 11 focusing primarily on the National Science Foundation and to the Association of Public Data Users on September 23 focusing on the agencies of the federal statistical system.

After a brief introduction to COSSA and its 30 year history of advocating for the social and behavioral sciences, Silver described the optimism many felt with the presentation of President Obama's FY 2012 budget in February 2011, which included significant increases for many research and data-focused agencies.

That sense of joy soon came up against the realities of the federal fiscal situation and the new Republican-controlled House of Representatives and the determined Republican minority in the Senate, who have made cutting federal programs a priority.

After describing the current state of the appropriations process (see other article) and the role of the Deficit Reduction or Super Committee, Silver discussed the coping strategies agencies are adapting to deal with budgetary difficulties. He indicated that "partnerships" with other agencies, universities, businesses, and international entities are some of the coping mechanisms employed by agencies.

The slides from the Texas presentation are available [here](#).

NIH CTSA/NCATS Integration Working Group Release Recommendations

As it waits for Congressional action regarding standing up the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) as recommended by the Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has posted the recommendations of the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) and the NCATS Working Group on the agency's [Feedback](#) page on the agency's website. According to the website, the Working group, chaired by National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases director Stephen Katz presented the recommendations to NIH director Francis Collins who subsequently shared them at the recent Consortium Steering Committee Meeting of the CTSA Principal Investigators.

In April, Collins convened the Working Group to "determine how the strengths of the CTSA could enhance the mission of NCATS and how to make the transition as smooth as possible." The specific charge to the Working Group was to: (1) Enumerate the roles and capabilities of the CTSA that can support and enhance the mission of NCATS; (2) Identify CTSA needs and priorities; and (3) Propose processes for ensuring a smooth transition from the National Center of Research Resources (NCRR) to NCATS.

The Working Group concluded that the CTSA program "offers invaluable resources for conducting and supporting clinical and translational science research, much of which will be essential in realizing the NCATS mission." Additionally, it emphasized that the "NCATS must be linked not only to basic and translational research in the categorical institutes and centers, but to the broader resources available at academic and health care organizations...NCATS leadership should capitalize upon these opportunities as it transitions the CTSA into the new Center." The Working recommendations include:

1. Continue to provide infrastructure supporting the full spectrum of translational research while encouraging CTSA institutions to develop their unique strengths. The Working Group agreed that there are essential core components that are critical to the conduct of translational science and should be baseline requirements in future RFAs. The Working Group concluded that the existing funding process does not create sufficient incentives for CTSA to develop innovative approaches in specific areas. For this reason, the Working Group suggests that in future RFAs, the application requirements and evaluation criteria should allow each CTSA to develop unique strengths.

2. Strengthen CTSA consortia activities. The Working Group noted that the recent establishment of a Coordinating Center is an important step in strengthening CTSA consortia activities. Moreover, an additional benefit of encouraging each CTSA to cultivate its own strengths while relying upon other CTSA sites for support in areas in which it does not excel has the potential to minimize redundancy and facilitate the formation of a Consortium that is stronger as a whole. To build upon this further, some portion of individual CTSA program funds should be dedicated to consortia activities, on both national and regional levels. It also will be critical for NCATS to monitor the landscape for critical translational research needs and to have funds reserved to direct CTSA consortium activities on an as needed basis in support of the NCATS mission.

3. Strengthen mechanisms for enabling IC-CTSA interactions. The Working Group concluded

that widespread utilization of the CTSA resources to facilitate IC-supported research has yet to be achieved. To harness the full capabilities of the robust CTSA network, mechanisms for interaction should be strengthened, including the development of suitable processes that allow the investment of IC funds in project-specific research, which will leverage the existing resources.

4. Evaluate each institutional award on its performance and allocate funds accordingly. The Working Group recommends that the CTSA program develop a revised process to determine individual CTSA funding levels based on performance measures that align with the goals of NCATS.

5. Allow current CTSA awardees to submit revisions to current awards prior to their anticipated renewal date. In light of the proposed changes to future CTSA RFAs, the Working Group recommends that current recipients of CTSAs should be afforded the opportunity to revise their current grants in order to reallocate resources - if desired - to enhance their strengths. These revised applications will be subjected to review.

6. Develop an explicit process for exchanging information. The CTSAs will continue to seek guidance about the priorities, functions, and expectations of NCATS as they further evolve. To ensure a smooth transition of the program into the new Center, the Working Group recommends that the CCEC remain a point of contact for engaging this community.

The SMRB meets again on October 26. The [agenda](#) includes a discussion of "Advancing the Translational Sciences."

APSA Releases Task Force Report on Changing Demographics and Political Science

The American Political Science Association (APSA) has released a Task Force report *Political Science in the 21st Century* that explores the impact of America's changing demographics on research and teaching in political science.

At a session at the National Press Club on October 21, former APSA President Diane Pinderhughes, who is also a professor of Africa Studies and Political Science at Notre Dame, and Luis Fraga, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement and Professor of Political Science at the University of Washington, presented highlights and recommendations from the report. Terry Givens, Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at Austin, co-chaired the Task Force with Fraga.

The focus of the report was on how political science can incorporate the increasing diversity of the nation's population in the 21st century. Data in the report suggest that political science can do better and that improving graduate training, providing faculty professional development, instituting curriculum changes, and increasing research on broader questions in politics would help.

The full report is available at www.apsanet.org.

CNSTAT Seminar Examines Impact of 'Great Recession'

On October 21, the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academies held a seminar examining: *The Effects of the Great Recession on Our Economy and Society: Insights from Public Data*. CNSTAT, directed by Connie Citro and chaired by Lawrence Brown of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, is entering its fifth decade helping to improve federal statistics.

The seminar highlighted chapters from a recent book, *The Great Recession*, edited by David

Grusky, Bruce Western, and Christopher Wimer, and published by the Russell Sage Foundation.

Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Michael Hout, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, presented the labor market effects of the recent economic downturn and compared them to the earlier recessions in 1980-82 and 2001. The 2007-2009 recession has had a longer duration, been of greater magnitude, and evidenced a significant gender gap in its effect, Hout concluded.

Using statistics indicating weeks on unemployment, Hout noted that in 1982 the average time a person spent out of work was 16 weeks. In the 2007-09 downturn that climbed to 34 weeks. The data reflecting unemployed-per-job-opening also demonstrated the magnitude of the current situation. In 2001, the ratio was two-three unemployed to each job opening; in 2009 it was seven. Currently, it has decreased to four, Hout indicated.

Regarding the gender gap, the recent recession has hurt men more than women, Hout asserted, although the movement of women into the labor force - the great story of post-war labor markets up until the 1990s - has steadied at around 70 percent. For some men, who have lost their jobs in their fifties, "their work lives are over," Hout declared. One significant difference this time around is that technology, specifically robots building cars, means many of the jobs once held by these folks, are gone.

How to get out of the current mess? Hout indicated that the construction industry led the plunge into the earlier recessions and then led the recoveries. The problem is that the housing crisis that was a large cause of the current problem created a greater magnitude of layoffs in that industry this time. Hout called for reviving consumer demand as a key to recovery.

For Tim Smeeding, Professor of Economics and director of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the current recession has had devastating effects on income inequality and the lives of the poor.

He noted that the recession has led to a declining state of living for the bottom 70 percent of the income distribution in this country. For these folks the "recession is still ongoing" and for many, each month sees them "falling off another cliff."

He indicated that there has clearly been a "labor market polarization" in which those who are college-educated and technologically savvy are doing well, while those folks with just a high school education or less are "screwed." There is no longer a path to the middle class for the less educated as there was in earlier times, Smeeding argued, since the manufacturing and construction industries have declined and service sector jobs available to these people barely pay a living wage. He also asserted that the recession has helped "crash" the burgeoning black and Latino middle class.

As poverty rates continue to climb and the bottom four quintiles in the income distribution continue to see their incomes decline, Smeeding suggested that coping mechanisms include moving in with "somebody else." He admitted that federal programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) have been enormously helpful. However, he pointed out that only 20 percent of the unemployed collect unemployment insurance.

At the upper end of the income scale the recovery, Smeeding asserted, has been greater. The stock market has recouped 75 percent of its pre-recession value. Housing prices, on the other hand are still down 30 percent, making it more difficult for people to move for new employment opportunities.

The solutions, according to Smeeding, will involve more training in technical skills. However, he was not very optimistic and talked about "a lost generation" of young people, who are caught up in a "structural" alteration of the American economy that is leaving them behind.

Fertility Rates in the Recession Affected by Political Divide

S. Philip Morgan, Professor of Sociology and director of the Social Science Research Institute at

Duke University, reported on the fertility response to the current economic difficulties. Using state vital statistics data, Morgan indicated that the fertility rate fell by five percent during the years 2007-2009. There was a significant correlation between a state's unemployment rate and fertility.

However, what was most intriguing to Morgan was the differential response in the states was related to the Red State/Blue State political divide. He first noted how responses to Gallup Poll questions regarding the state of the economy shifted with the change from President Bush to President Obama in 2009. Republicans were much more optimistic and supportive of economic policies during Bush's stewardship of the recession and then became more critical when Obama took over. Democrats' views were the reverse.

In examining the relationship between the Bush vote in 2000 and the fertility rate during the recession, Morgan reported it was quite strong. He indicated that there was very little effect of the recession on fertility in the Blue states, but particularly in the Reddest states like Oklahoma and Utah, the rate declined significantly during the economic downturn.

He also noted that the "doubling up" phenomena showed a "modest increase," but still remains relatively rare. There was also no "mean effects" on union formation during this period, although he suggested that the data on marriage "are not good."

Commenting on the presentations, Lisa Lynch, Dean and Maurice B. Hexter Professor of Social and Economic Policy at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, pointed out that the one of the differences of the recent recession from the one in the 1980s, was the impact of the aging of the American workforce. The 1980s recession hit the young the hardest, she told the audience. This time it was different, as Hout noted earlier. She suggested that examining what has happened inside workplaces would also help to tell the story of the current economic difficulty. Another outcome of the recent situation that also needs more research, she noted, are the "scarring effects" in localities like Detroit. The impact on retirement decisions and employer hiring decisions are other facets for study, she concluded.

Although the National Bureau of Economic Research, the "official" arbiter of when recessions start and end in this country, indicated that the economic downturn ended in 2009, it is clear the impacts have been significant and are still occurring.

NAS Committee Reviewing 2010 Census Examines Internet Use by Other Countries

On October 18 the National Academies' Committee on National Statistics held the Ninth Meeting of the Panel to Review the 2010 Census. With an eye towards the 2020 Census, the meeting focused on the early results of internet responses to the 2011 Census of Canada, and internet research for the 2020 Census.

Marc Hamel and Patrice Mathieu of Statistics Canada told the panel about the 2011 Census of Canada. They noted that Canada is still in the initial phase of the evaluation process, making some of the conclusions preliminary. However, one thing was strikingly clear from the data-Canadians overwhelmingly favored responding by Internet, with more than half choosing this method. In 2011 Statistics Canada began using wave methodology to increase returns by Internet, which meant sending multiple reminders to people to increase the likelihood of action. They utilized a Master Control System to track respondents in real time and thus, save a lot of energy, time and resources from being wasted on dwellings that had already responded. This did not prove to be a flawless system, but it was quite effective, they concluded.

Joan Hill and Jennifer Tancreto from the U.S. Census Bureau led the discussion on Internet research for the 2020 Census. The results of the 2010 Census Quality Survey indicated that those using the Internet had a lower non-response rate, than those who did not have this option. Further, the

process was well understood and navigated by responders who generally finished in 10 minutes or less. In the American Community Survey (ACS) Internet testing program, various options were tested including prominently giving individuals the choice of utilizing the Internet to respond, more subtly giving them the choice, pushing them to use the Internet (literature encouraged people to "please go online" to take the survey instead of using a paper questionnaire), and pushed with rapid reinforcement of the request. The Bureau will conduct a follow-up test in November of 2011 assessing a variety of tweaked methods including making the Internet option more prominent and giving an extra reminder to those in the accelerated push group.

In the course of working to move responses online, Census is exploring and trying to perfect many possibilities. The Bureau is working to improve authentication, tailoring questions based on known information, and considering different possibilities for passwords, for example. While those present agreed that the ACS is far too long for tailoring to smartphones, all agreed that the 2020 Census should be compatible with these devices.

ERS Funds Research on Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs

On October 21, Agriculture Under Secretary for Economics Catherine Woteki announced new research grants and cooperative agreement awards designed to examine, evaluate, and enhance the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) nutrition assistance programs.

The research projects were competitively awarded by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) through a publicly announced and peer-reviewed process. These competitive grants and cooperative agreements fund research on the relationships among food assistance programs, food choices, and the economy; and on using behavioral economics and incentives to promote child nutrition. The latter topic is part of an ongoing collaboration with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) initiated in FY 2010 to develop a research program in behavioral economics as applied to USDA's child nutrition programs.

According to Woteki, USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs-including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the school meals programs-affect the lives of millions of people each day. About one in four Americans participates in at least one food assistance program at some point during the year.

The recipients and their topics:

- Theodore Joyce, National Bureau of Economic Research - Food Assistance Programs, Food Choices, and the Economy;
- Loren Bell, Altarum Institute, Ann Arbor, MI - Effect of New WIC Food Packages on Breastfeeding and Food Package Choices;
- Linda Giannarelli, Urban Institute - The Effect of Food Programs on Alternative Poverty Measures;
- David Just, Cornell University - Using Behavioral Economics and Incentives to Promote Child Nutrition;
- Joseph Price, Brigham Young University - Using Nudges and Incentives to Promote Long-Run Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables in Children; and
- Gregory Madden, Utah State University - Long-term Effects of Incentivizing Fruit and Vegetable Consumption.

Further information is available on the Web at:

www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/Compgrants.htm.

You may also contact program contact David Smallwood at (202) 694-5466 or

Federal Role in Agricultural Risk Management Examined

On October 11, the Farm Foundation Forum held an event, "The Future Role of the Federal Government in Agricultural Risk Management." Speaking were: Carl Zulaf, a professor of agricultural economics at Ohio State University as well as three farmers - Ann Jorgensen, who also served on the board of the Farm Credit Administration, Jimmy Dodson from the coastal bend of Texas, and Clair Hauge, a fourth-generation farmer/rancher.

Zulaf focused his discussion on an explanation of the different kinds of risks farmers face. He described shallow loss (a loss smaller than the deductible of crop insurance) and deep loss (which crop insurance would cover). The causes of risk can be idiosyncratic (farm specific) and systemic (large scale). Area systemic risk, such as drought, carries massive danger since it can result in losses for years for farmers. Going forward, there are many different questions as to how crop insurance could be modified to address these risks according to Zulaf, and the farm community needs to clearly illustrate why insurance is vital to begin with. The farmers on the panel served to demonstrate why crop insurance is indispensable, addressing topics like insurance audits, risks like yield and price, crop insurance as collateral and more.

It seems as though Congress heard the call of this event. On October 17 the House and Senate Agriculture committees sent a letter to the 12-member Deficit Reduction Committee that proposed a net \$23 billion in mandatory spending cuts to programs under their jurisdiction over the next decade. The letter co-signed by Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Pat Roberts (R-KS), Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and Reps. Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Collin Peterson (D-MN), Chair and Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, offered no specifics or any mention of agriculture research and data. The legislators noted that the Committees would unveil a complete legislative package by November 1. Roberts declared in a separate statement, his intention to protect the federally subsidized crop insurance program. The baseline, he asserted, will be kept whole regardless of the interaction with other programs.

For more on Farm Foundation Forum events, go [here](#).

PCORI Seeks Scientific and Stakeholder Reviewers for Pilot Project Grants Program

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is seeking to identify scientific reviews to participate in merit reviews of the [PCORI Pilot Projects Program](#) (see Update, [October 10, 2011](#)). The merit review criteria were developed by PCORI and the entire process will be administered by staff at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). According to the announcement, the PCORI review process will use evaluation criteria that are distinct from those used in NIH and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) reviews.

The PCORI criteria intends to place emphasis on ensuring that patients are engaged and the patient perspective is adequately accounted for in the proposed research in addition to the usual criteria of significance, innovation, approach, experience, and scientific environment. PCORI study sections also will include several non-research stakeholder members, such as patients, caregivers, health care clinicians or providers, representatives of community organizations dedicated to health promotion or health care, or representatives of patient advocacy organizations. Scientists with expertise in health services research, outcomes research, clinical epidemiology, behavioral science or related fields and those with particular interests in the [eight areas of interest for PCORI's Pilot Projects Grants Program](#) are invited to join the PCORI review community.

Individuals may serve as a reviewer even if they plan to apply for a PCORI Pilot Projects grant.

Those interested in applying should submit a current biosketch (NIH format) or current curriculum vitae (CV) via email to scientific@pcori.org no later than 12:00 p.m. ET on October 26, 2011.

Stakeholders Wanted

PCORI is also inviting stakeholders who are not usually represented in scientific review groups to serve as merit reviewers of PCORI Pilot Projects Grants applications. Eligible stakeholders include patients, caregivers, health care clinicians or providers, representatives of community organizations dedicated to health promotion or health care, or representatives of patient advocacy organizations. Selected stakeholders would be part of a multi-disciplinary review group that will mostly include scientific peer reviewers.

Training on how to be a merit reviewer will be conducted by PCORI and NIH in January. An honorarium of \$200 and travel expenses, including food, hotel, and transportation, will be provided for attendance and participation in the review group. Those interested in serving as a reviewer must complete and submit the [application form](#) no later than 12:00 p.m. ET on October 26, 2011.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is an advocacy organization promoting attention to and federal support for the social and behavioral sciences.

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