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Senate Committee Discusses U.S. Science Investments; COMPETES Bill Expected Soon

On May 11, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing entitled, "Leveraging the U.S. Science and Technology Enterprise." The Committee heard from a panel of experts in science and engineering representing the university and private sectors. The hearing was designed to inform the Committee's efforts as it works to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act, which is legislation originally enacted in 2007 to bolster U.S. investment in basic scientific research. The Committee has oversight jurisdiction for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other basic science agencies.

Read on for full details and check out COSSA's complete coverage of COMPETES legislation in the House and Senate.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NIH Appoints Director of National Library of Medicine
On May 11, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins announced the appointment of Patricia Flatly Brennan as the new director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The Lillian L. Moehlman Bascom Professor at the School of Nursing and College of Engineering, Brennan comes to the NIH from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she leads the Living Environments Laboratory at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery. A pioneer in the development of information systems for patients, she developed ComputerLink, "an electronic network designed to reduce isolation and improve self-care among home care patients." Brennan is expected to join the NIH in August. More about Brennan’s appointment is available on the NIH website.

NIJ Seeking Chief Research Advisor

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is looking to hire a Chief Research Advisor tasked with leading the development and implementation of a new initiative that will "build in-house research capacity in law enforcement agencies." According to the listing, "NIJ is looking for a social science researcher with a commitment to partnering with law enforcement to produce applicable, impactful research and analysis that addresses the field’s highest priority needs and advances policy and practice. The selected applicant will manage NIJ’s newest effort to partner with interested law enforcement agencies to identify their in-house capacity for research and analysis, review data collection and availability, and work with research-minded officers to design quasi-experimental projects." The position is a two-year detail through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA). Applications are accepted through June 3.

Office of AIDS Research Issues RFI on Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of AIDS Research (OAR) in the Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) recently issued a request-for-information (RFI) (NOT-OD-16-089) seeking input on the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research. The 2018 Plan is "designed to identify and articulate possible future directions to maximize benefits of investments in HIV/AIDS research." In August 2015, NIH issued "new overarching priorities" for the next three to five years for HIV/AIDS research in a Notice, NIH HIV/AIDS Research Priorities and Guidelines for Determining AIDS Funding (NOT-OD-15-137). The Notice also outlined guidelines the agency will use to determine AIDS funding (see Update, September 4, 2015). The RFI notes that the overarching high priority areas identified in the August 15 notice "will remain unchanged." Accordingly, OAR is seeking input on "those scientific and research opportunities that refine NIH HIV/AIDS research agenda and optimize the investment of HIV/AIDS research resources to search for critical strategies to prevent, treat, and cure AIDS." Comments are due by June 10, 2016.

NIMHD Accepting Applications for Health Disparities Research Institute

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking applicants to its Summer Institute on Health Disparities Science. The Institute which will be held on the NIH campus from August 15-19, 2016, is designed to "support the development of individual research projects by promising scientists early in their careers and ... stimulate research in the disciplines supported by science on minority health and health disparities." The course includes lectures, seminars, and small group discussions on research relevant to minority health and health disparities along with sessions by NIH scientific staff engaged
in related health disparities research across the various NIH Institutes and Centers. Early career researchers from diverse backgrounds, as well as individuals interested in research on minority health and health disparities within academic, community-based, nonprofit, and other non-academic settings are encouraged to apply. Applications are due June 1, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mary Waters Delivers 2016 David Lecture

On May 3, 2016, Mary C. Waters, M.E. Zukerman Professor and former chair of Sociology at Harvard University, delivered the Spring 2016 Henry and Bryna David Lecture at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The David Lecture highlights innovative social and behavioral science research by inviting leading scholars to contribute an article to Issues in Science and Technology and present at the National Academies. Waters' talk, titled "The War on Crime and The War on Immigrants: New Forms of Legal Exclusion and Discrimination in the U.S." drew from two major recent Academies reports, The Growth of Incarceration in the United States (2015) and The Integration of Immigrants into American Society (for which Waters chaired the study committee). Waters used the findings from the reports to draw parallels between undocumented immigrants and ex-felons, both populations whose legal status separates them from the general population and exposes them to certain types of legal discrimination (such as in housing, employment, or education). Waters described some of the lasting negative consequences this type of exclusion can have on the health and achievement of both the affected individuals and on their families. A recording of her lecture is available on the Academies' website.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIFA: Effective Mitigation Strategies for Antimicrobial Resistance/5-Year Assessment of AFRI Food Safety Challenge Area (AFRI Food Safety Challenge Area) (USDA-NIFA-AFRI-005802)
- NIFA: Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities (AFRI Foundational Program) (USDA-NIFA-AFRI-005843)
- ED: Investing in Innovation Fund: Validation Grants
- ED: Investing in Innovation Fund: Scale-up Grants
- NIH: Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SSRC Seeks Nominations for Hirschman Prize

The Social Science Research Council, a COSSA member, is inviting nominations for its highest honor: the Albert O. Hirschman Prize. The Hirschman Prize recognizes excellence in social science research, theory, and public communication. Nominations are requested by June 15 and should be submitted to hirschmanprize@ssrc.org along with information on the nominator, a brief statement of commendation, and the nominee's curriculum vitae or links to the nominee's website.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2-5, 2016
- Joint Statistical Meetings, Chicago, IL, July 30-August 4, 2016
- American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Denver, CO, August 4-7, 2016
- Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, August 16-19, 2016

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA webpage.

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@cossa.org.

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Members

Governing Associations
- American Anthropological Association
- American Association for Public Opinion Research
- American Economic Association
- American Educational Research Association
- American Political Science Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Society of Criminology
- American Sociological Association
- American Statistical Association
- Association of American Law Schools
- Law and Society Association
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- Population Association of America
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- Society for Research in Child Development

Colleges and Universities
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- Brown University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Clark University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Fielding Graduate University
- George Mason University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Howard University
- Indiana University
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
- Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
- Stanford University
- Texas A&M University
- The George Washington University
- The Ohio State University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Santa Barbara
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- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Illinois
- University of Iowa
- University of Maryland
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
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- American Historical Association
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- Association for Asian Studies
- Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
- Association of Research Libraries
- Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
- Council on Social Work Education
- Economic History Association
- History of Science Society
- Midwest Sociological Society
- National Association of Social Workers
- North American Regional Science Council
- Rural Sociological Society
- Social Science History Association
- Society for Research on Adolescence
- Society for Social Work and Research
- Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
- Society of Behavioral Medicine
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.

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