In This Issue

FEATURED NEWS

From the Executive Director

COSSA IN ACTION

Early Bird Registration Open for 2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day
COSSA Issues Recommendations to the Incoming Trump Administration
COSSA Releases State Funding Fact Sheets for 2017

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

A Profile of the 115th Congress
House and Senate Committees Take Shape
Innovation Legislation Signed into Law

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Congressman Mick Mulvaney Nominated for OMB Director
Census Bureau Establishes 2020 Advisory Committee, Calls for Nominations
National Library of Medicine Seeks Input into Strategic Planning Process
Federal Agencies Clarify Programmatic Goals and Specific Interests for Multiscale Modeling Initiative

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

COSSA Remembers Stephen Fienberg

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

National Communication Association Announces Next Executive Director
AERA Extends Deadline for Congressional Fellowships

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEATURED NEWS

From the Executive Director

Happy New Year! I am pleased with all that we were able to accomplish over the last year as we
worked to protect and promote social and behavioral science research to policymakers and the public. But heading into this new chapter in Washington, it is important that we do not rest on our laurels. Given all of the unknowns about the year ahead and what the new political context might mean for social science research, now is the time for anyone who cares about our research to engage.

COSSA has been busy organizing several activities and events for this year aimed at showcasing the value our sciences bring to issues of interest to decision makers across the government. A number of these activities are highlighted below, including the 2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day on March 29-30 and COSSA’s Ten Recommendations for the 45th President of the United States. Watch for additional activities throughout the year.

It’s time to get to work— I look forward to engaging with you as we continue our efforts on behalf of social and behavioral science research. And as always, thank you for your support of COSSA!

Wendy A. Naus
COSSA Executive Director

COSSA IN ACTION

Early Bird Registration Open for 2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day

Registration is now open for the 2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day, scheduled for March 29-30 in Washington, DC. This event (formerly the COSSA Annual Meeting) brings together COSSA members and other stakeholders for a day of discussion about federal policy impacting our science followed by the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. Come be part of the action. Register before January 15 to receive the early bird rate. Information on discounted student rates and confirmed speakers will be released in the coming weeks. Register today!

COSSA Issues Recommendations to the Incoming Trump Administration

Before the holiday break, COSSA transmitted a report to the Trump transition team, Social and Behavioral Science Research: Ten Recommendations for the 45th President of the United States. The report outlines a number of steps the next Administration can take to support the U.S. research enterprise and use social science research in support of evidence-based policy making. This document can also be helpful in outreach to policy makers in Congress as well. The document is available on the COSSA website at http://www.cossa.org/press-publications/2017-transition-recommendations/.

COSSA Releases State Funding Fact Sheets for 2017

COSSA has released the 2017 edition of its state funding fact sheets with a new look. These one-pagers showcase the amount of federal social science research funding that goes to each state, and includes information on the leading recipient institutions and sources of funding. The fact sheets are helpful for articulating to policy makers the local economic impact of social science
CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

A Profile of the 115th Congress

The 115th Congress was officially sworn in on January 3. The new Congress includes a freshman class of 53 Representatives (26 Republicans and 27 Democrats) and 6 Senators (1 Republican and 5 Democrats). Republicans maintained majorities in both chambers following the November elections, but with smaller margins than in the 114th Congress. The party alignment in the House currently stands at 241 Republicans and 194 Democrats, compared to the Republican majority of 249 in the 114th Congress. The party alignment in the Senate stands at 52 Republicans and 48 Democrats (the two Senate Independents caucus with the Democrats), compared to the Republican majority of 54 seats in the 114th Congress.

While both chambers of Congress are still overwhelmingly white (339 in the House and 90 in the Senate) and male (348 in the House and 79 in the Senate), the 115th Congress will be the most diverse in history. It will also be one of the most educated Congresses in history with 234 members of the House and 57 members of the Senate holding advanced degrees. A large majority in both chambers have held different public offices before their election to Congress (191 in the House, 44 in the Senate), were involved in business (178 in the House, 29 in the Senate), or practiced law (156 in the House, 50 in the Senate). Notably, there are 5 members of the House who self-identified as having occupations in science as well as 77 members of the House and 20 members of the Senate who self-identified as having occupations in education before their election to Congress.

House and Senate Committees Take Shape

Several committee chairs and ranking members have been announced in recent weeks, including for committees and subcommittees overseeing funding and policy issues important to social and behavioral science research. These appointments will have important impacts on the priorities and activities of the committees over the next year. Read on for more details.

Innovation Legislation Signed into Law

As previously reported, lawmakers worked in the final weeks of 2016 to find common ground on research innovation legislation, known as the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (S. 3084), before adjourning for the year. The bill passed the Senate in early December, but did not get a House vote before lawmakers headed home for the holidays. However, given that the House had not yet officially adjourned for the year, the bill was quietly passed on December 16 in pro forma session along with a number of other bills under suspension of the rules. President Obama signed the bill into law on January 6, 2017.

The resulting law includes variety of science policy provisions covering topics such as the National Science Foundation's merit review process, STEM education, and administrative burden, among others. In general, it is a positive bill for research, especially compared to earlier versions considered in the House. It is important to note, however, that while the original purpose of earlier legislation in the House and Senate was to authorize funding for NSF for the
years ahead, agreement could not be reached on overall levels and therefore negotiators elected to keep numbers out the bill. That means that NSF's authorization is still expired (since 2013) and the House Science, Space and Technology Committee (under the leadership of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX)) may very well introduce another NSF authorization bill in the new Congress. COSSA will continue to follow such efforts.

---

**FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS**

**Congressman Mick Mulvaney Nominated for OMB Director**

On December 16, President-elect Donald Trump nominated Congressman Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) to serve as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Trump Administration. Mulvaney made a name for himself during his three terms in the House as an outspoken opponent of government spending.

OMB serves as the implementation and enforcement arm of Presidential policy through budget development, oversight of agency performance, legislative coordination, and oversight of executive orders. If confirmed by the Senate, Mulvaney will have broad responsibilities implementing President-elect Trump's agenda, including a central role in health care and tax policy changes, as well as the repeal of government regulations.

**Census Bureau Establishes 2020 Advisory Committee, Calls for Nominations**

The Census Bureau announced the establishment of a Census Bureau 2020 Advisory Committee, which will provide expertise and advice to Bureau leadership on matters related to the planning and implementation of the 2020 decennial census. The Bureau is seeking nominations to fill the 25-member Committee, particularly candidates with expertise related to "diverse populations; national, state, local and tribal interest; hard-to-count populations; research; community-based organizations; academia; business interests; marketing and media industries; and professional associations." More information is available in the Federal Register notice. Nominations must be submitted by January 19, 2017.

**National Library of Medicine Seeks Input into Strategic Planning Process**

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input into its strategic planning process and has issued a Request for Information (RFI): Strategic Plan for the National Library of Medicine, NIH (NOT-LM-7-002). Priorities and future direction under consideration by the Institute revolve around four themes: (1) advancing data science, open science, and biomedical informatics; (2) advancing biomedical discovery and translational science; (3) supporting the public's health: clinical systems, public health systems and services, and personal health; and (4) building collections to support discovery and health in the 21st century. Specifically, NLM is inviting input "on the most audacious goals and the most compelling questions that could potentially drive innovation in research and information systems for the next decade and beyond." The deadline for responding to the RFI has been extended to January 23, 2017. To respond and/or for more information see the notice.

**Federal Agencies Clarify Programmatic Goals and Specific Interests for Multiscale Modeling Initiative**

In December 2016, seven federal agencies--National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Army Research Office (ARO), Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Office of Naval Research (ONR)--released a notice (NOT-EB-16-011) clarifying the
programmatic goals and specific interests of the interagency funding opportunity announcement Predictive Multiscale Models for Biomedical, Biological, Behavioral, Environmental and Clinical Research (PAR-15-085). See the notice for full details.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

COSSA Remembers Stephen Fienberg

COSSA was saddened to learn of the death of Stephen E. Fienberg, University Professor of Statistics and Social Science at Carnegie Mellon University, member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a champion of federal statistics. More about Fienberg's life and legacy can be found in his Carnegie Mellon News obituary.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ED/OPE: Fulbright-Hays--Group Projects Abroad Program, FY 2017
- NIJ: Research on Bias Crimes (NIJ-2017-11184)
- NIH: Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

National Communication Association Announces Next Executive Director

The National Communication Association (NCA), a COSSA Governing Member, has announced the appointment of Dr. Paige K. Turner as its next Executive Director. Turner is currently Associate Dean and Professor in the School of Communications at Webster University in St. Louis. She will begin her tenure at NCA on April 1.

AERA Extends Deadline for Congressional Fellowships

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), a COSSA Governing Member, has extended the deadline for the 2017-2018 Congressional Fellowship Program. Applications are due January 17, 2017 for fellowships that run from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. The fellowship aims to "use education research skills to inform public policy in a Congressional office in Washington, D.C." Interested candidates can apply here.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- AERA Centennial Lecture: Bridget Terry Long - Supporting College Student Access and Success, January 11, 2017, Los Angeles, CA
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, January 19-21, 2017, San Antonio, TX
- AERA Centennial Lecture: Deborah Lowe Vandell - The Opportunities and Challenges of Early Child Care and Education, February 22, 2017, Oklahoma City, OK
- American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting, March 15-18, 2017, Seville, Spain
- Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 16-19, 2017, Toronto, Canada
- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, March 21-25, 2017, Kansas City, MO
A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA events page.

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.

REGISTER NOW!
COSSA’s 2017 Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day will take place March 29-30, 2017 in Washington, DC.
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.

ISSN 0749-4394.