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National Academies Highlights the Value of Social Science

At the request of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened an expert committee, chaired by Alan Leshner, CEO Emeritus of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to study the contributions of the social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences to the national interest. The committee's report, [The Value of the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities](#), published last week, is a ringing endorsement of the importance of these fields to

addressing "nearly every major challenge the United States faces." The report draws three conclusions: (1) SBE sciences "produce a better understanding of the human aspects of the natural world, contributing knowledge, methods, and tools that further the mission of the National Science Foundation;" (2) SBE sciences provide understanding, tools, and methods that help other agencies achieve their missions; (3) the SBE sciences have made contributions that "have been applicable to businesses and industry and that have enhanced the U.S. economy." To support its findings, the report provides supporting examples detailing the contributions of SBE research to health, prosperity and welfare, national defense, progress in science, missions of other agencies, and industry and business.

The committee also issued four recommendations for NSF and the broader SBE community: (1) NSF should undertake a systematic and transparent strategic planning process related to SBE sciences; (2) NSF should "continue to support the development of tools, methods, and research teams" to advance SBE sciences, facilitate their interactions with other fields, and help NSF and other organizations more effectively address national needs; (3) NSF should support training "consistent with the ways science is evolving across all scientific fields;" and (4) NSF should work to better communicate the results and value of the SBE research it supports and to encourage the broader scientific community to increase its own efforts to better communicate the value of SBE research.

COSSA IN ACTION

The National Communication Association Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from Paaige Turner, Executive Director of the National Communication Association, who writes about the role Communication research plays in helping shape our understanding of the world around us. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

COSSA Senate Testimony Calls for Funding for NIH, AHRQ, CDC, Education Programs

On June 2, COSSA submitted [testimony](#) to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2018. The testimony calls for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Institute for Education Sciences (IES), and International Education and Foreign Language Programs (Title VI and Fulbright-Hays).

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

House Subcommittee Discusses FY 2018 NSF Budget

On June 7, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) held a [hearing](#) on the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget request for the National Science Foundation (NSF), featuring NSF Director France Córdoba. Subcommittee Chairman John Culberson (R-TX) opened the hearing by recognizing the important role NSF plays as the sole federal funder of basic research across all fields of science. Culberson also

added that the subcommittee is going to work in a bi-partisan fashion to ensure that NSF is "appropriately funded" despite the tough budgetary environment and the appropriations process getting off to a slow start. As COSSA [previously reported](#), the President's budget request includes \$6.7 billion for NSF, which would be a \$819 million or 11.2 percent cut.

[Read on](#) for more details.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NIH Suspends Recently-Announced Grant Support Index Policy, Launches "Next Generation Researchers Initiative"

On June 8, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins [announced](#) that based on [feedback](#) from the scientific community in response to the May 2 proposed policy change to use a [Grant Support Index](#) (GSI) as a means to "optimize stewardship of tax payers' dollars," NIH has decided to take "a more focused approach to increase the number of NIH-funded early-staged and mid-care investigators (ESI)." Instead of the GSI, Collins announced the agency will implement a "Next Generation Researchers Initiative (NGRI)." The issue was discussed at the June 8 NIH Advisory Committee to Director (ACD) meeting following a [presentation](#) by NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak.

[Read on](#) for more details.

Collins to Stay on at NIH; Two Other Leadership Positions Announced

On June 6, the President announced that National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins will stay on as NIH director. As [previously reported](#), Collins was asked to remain in the position in January by the new administration. Collins continues to enjoy support of the Republican leadership of committees with jurisdiction over the NIH. He was officially appointed to the post despite a [May 22 letter](#) from 41 conservative House members urging the President to appoint someone whose views are more aligned the Administration's "pro-life direction," citing embryonic stem cell research and human cloning as examples. In addition, NIH recently announced the appointments of Norman E. Sharpless as the next director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Christine Hunter as Deputy Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR).

[Read on](#) for more details.

Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research Care, and Services Seeks Members

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking seven non-Federal members for the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research Care, and Services. The 22-member Council consists of 12 non-federal members who fall within six categories: dementia caregivers; health care providers; researchers with dementia-related expertise in basic, translational, clinical, or drug development science; voluntary health association representatives; representatives of state health departments; and dementia patient advocates, including an advocate currently living with the disease. Nominations are due June 16, 2017. For more information, see the [announcement](#).

NIH-Supported Dissemination and Implementation Research Training Institute Seeks Applications

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), led by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is supporting a training institute designed to provide participants with a "thorough grounding in conducting D&I [dissemination and implementation] research in health across all areas of health and health care." The Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (TIDIRH) is open to investigators at any career stage interested in conducting D&I research. The training will be conducted both online and a during two-day in-person training session in Bethesda, MD, from August 14 through December 1, 2017. Applications are due June 21, 2017. For more information, see the program [website](#).

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coalition to Promote Research Launches Petition Drive: "Advancing Principles of Scientific Stewardship"

On June 12, the [Coalition to Promote Research](#) (CPR), which is co-led by COSSA and the American Psychological Association (a COSSA member), launched a petition drive, [Advancing Principles of Scientific Stewardship](#). The effort is designed to make evident the support of the general public as well as the scientific community for America's premier federal research enterprise, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The organizers hope to showcase the enormous unseen support for the peer/merit review process.

[Read on](#) for more details.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- IES: [Click here for a list of recent IES funding opportunities.](#)
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COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AAPOR Report Assesses 2016 Election Polling Performance

After Donald Trump's surprise win in the 2016 election, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), a COSSA governing member, convened a committee to review the performance of pre-election polling (AAPOR has convened such committees after the past several elections). The committee, chaired by Courtney Kennedy of the Pew Research Center, recently released [An Evaluation of 2016 Election Polls in the U.S.](#), outlining its findings and recommendations.

[Read on](#) for more details.

CJRA and COSSA to Host "Ask a Criminologist" Panel on Technology and Policing

The Crime & Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) (a collaborative effort of the Academy of Criminal Justice Science and the American Society of Criminology, both COSSA members) and COSSA will be hosting the second in a series of "Ask a Criminologist" Congressional briefings on Wednesday, June 21. This interactive event will feature criminologist experts who will provide an overview of research on the latest technologies police are using across the country. Experts include CJRA Chair Dr. Nancy La Vigne of The Urban Institute, Dr. Cynthia Lum of George Mason University, Dr. Eric Piza of John Jay College, and Eddie Reyes of the Police Foundation. More information, and a link to RSVP, can be found [here](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), June 20-23, 2017, Mexico City, Mexico
- [Ask a Criminologist Congressional Briefing: New Policing Technologies: What Are the Impacts to Public Safety and Civil Liberties?](#) June 21, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Supporting Educational Achievement with Innovations Outside the Classroom: The Lunch @ DC with Chloe Gibbs](#), June 23, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Meeting](#), June 23-25, 2017, Albuquerque, NM
- [Hotspot Policing: Results from Colombia - The Lunch @ DC with Don Green](#), July 6, 2017, Washington, DC
- [How Evidence Can Transform the Fight Against Poverty - The Lunch @ DC with Jim Sullivan](#), July 20, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), July 27-30, 2017, Columbus, OH
- [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), July 28-August 3, 2017, Baltimore, MD
- [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), August 3-6, 2017, Washington, DC
- [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 12-15, 2017, Montreal, Canada
- [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), August 31-September 3, 2017, San Francisco, CA

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@coffa.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
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Clark University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
Florida State University
George Mason University
George Washington University, The
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
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University, The
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine

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
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
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
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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