UNC, Michigan Continue to Lead U.S. Universities in Social Science Funding According to New COSSA Rankings

Washington, D.C. — The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) today released its 2018 College and University Rankings for Federal Social and Behavioral Science R&D, which highlight the top university recipients of research dollars in the social and behavioral sciences. As in previous years, the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor continue to lead the nation in total federal social science research dollars. UNC Chapel Hill received $104.1 million in federal social science R&D, with the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor coming in at $98.3 million. A total of 446 colleges and universities are included in the 2018 rankings. This year’s rankings also feature a new dashboard on the COSSA website that allows users to engage with an interactive map of recipients of social and behavioral science R&D funding.

“COSSA’s rankings demonstrate how important federally funded social and behavioral science research is to our nation’s most prestigious research universities—and to local economies,” said Wendy Naus, COSSA Executive Director. “Although social and behavioral science may not receive as much popular attention as other STEM fields, federally-supported research in the social and behavioral sciences generates an evidence base that we can use to produce science-backed strategies to address pressing national issues, like combating the opiate epidemic, enhancing our national security, and mitigating the effects of natural disasters.”

Based on federally collected data, the COSSA rankings use an inclusive selection of fields to calculate the total federal R&D funding received by universities in the social and behavioral sciences. The 2018 rankings reflect spending from fiscal year 2016, the most current available data. More information on how COSSA produces its rankings is available on its website.

Top Recipients of Federal Social Science R&D Funding
1. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill* (NC) - $104,085,000 (#1 in 2017)
2. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor* (MI) - $98,348,000 (#2 in 2017)
3. Pennsylvania State University, University Park and Hershey Medical Center* (PA) - $39,333,000 (#6 in 2017)
4. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities* (MN) - $39,147,000 (#5 in 2017)
5. University of Washington, Seattle* (WA) - $38,676,000 (#7 in 2017)
7. University of Maryland, College Park* (MD) - $35,235,000 (#3 in 2017)
8. Arizona State University* (AZ) - $31,016,000 (#10 in 2017)
9. University of South Florida, Tampa (FL) - $29,932,000 (#23 in 2017)
10. University of Southern California (CA) - $29,810,000 (#11 in 2017)

* Denotes COSSA membership

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. 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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