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2019 COSSA Rankings Show UNC, Michigan Leading U.S. Universities in Social Science Funding

Washington, D.C. — The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) has released its 2019 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 $126.7 million in federal social science R&D, with the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor coming in at $117.2 million. A total of 468 colleges and universities are included in the 2019 rankings. This year’s rankings also feature a dashboard on the COSSA website that allows users to engage with an interactive map of recipients of social and behavioral science R&D funding.

“As the COSSA rankings demonstrate, federally funded social and behavioral science is a critical piece of the research ecosystem at our nation’s most prestigious universities—and an important contributor to local economies,” said Wendy Naus, COSSA Executive Director. “As part of the nation’s STEM enterprise, federally-supported research in the social and behavioral sciences generates evidence that we can use to produce science-backed strategies to address pressing national issues, like combating the opioid epidemic, making our communities safer, and mitigating the effects of natural disasters.”

Based on federally collected data, the COSSA rankings use an inclusive selection of fields representing the breadth of the social and behavioral sciences to calculate the total federal R&D funding received by universities in the social and behavioral sciences. The 2019 rankings reflect spending from fiscal year 2017, 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) - $126,694,000 (#1 in 2018)
2. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor* (MI) - $117,218,000 (#2 in 2018)
3. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities* (MN) - $44,272,000 (#4 in 2018)
4. University of Maryland, College Park* (MD) - $42,681,000 (#7 in 2018)
5. Pennsylvania State University, University Park and Hershey Medical Center* (PA) - $37,794,000 (#3 in 2018)
6. University of Washington, Seattle* (WA) - $36,061,000 (#5 in 2018)
7. University of Pennsylvania* (PA) - $32,888,000 (#6 in 2018)
8. New York University (NY) - $32,384,000 (#11 in 2018)
9. University of Southern California (CA) - $31,958,000 (#10 in 2018)
10. University of South Florida, Tampa (FL) - $31,580,000 (#9 in 2018)

* Denotes COSSA member

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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