



WASHINGTON UPDATE

May 11, 2021 Volume 40, Issue 10

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Featured News

House Science Committee Discusses NSF's Future

As [previously reported](#), leaders of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee introduced the *National Science Foundation for the Future Act* (H.R. 2225) earlier this spring. Over the last several weeks, the Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a series of hearings to discuss the bill and, more generally, "Advancing Research for the Future of U.S. Innovation." On April 28, the hearing featured NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan and Chair of the National Science Board Ellen Ochoa. A second hearing featuring stakeholders of NSF funding, including representatives from research universities and the private sector, occurred on May 6. COSSA issued a [statement](#) in support of the NSF for the Future Act on May 7, applauding the bill for its comprehensive approach to strengthening NSF, enhancing its budget, and preserving its role as the premier U.S. basic science agency.

Throughout both hearings, Subcommittee members from both parties expressed strong bipartisan support for NSF and especially its basic science mission. The *NSF for the Future Act* proposes creation of a new Science and Engineering Solutions Directorate, which would be tasked with supporting more "use-inspired" research and translating basic research findings into solutions to address societal challenges. Both Democratic and Republican members of the Subcommittee stressed the importance of taking a careful and deliberate approach in setting up a new function so as to not harm NSF's gold-standard basic research activities. Several members made references to the very different approach being taken in the Senate with the *Endless Frontier Act* (S. 1260), which is seeking to invest \$100 billion directly into a new technology-focused directorate while making few other investments in the agency. See [COSSA's full coverage](#) for details. Subcommittee Chair Haley Stevens (D-MI) made special note of the unique opportunity before us in which there is strong bipartisan support for significantly enhancing NSF's budget.

Over the two hearings, Republican lawmakers focused their remarks and questions on the need to enhance competition with China and address research security concerns. Several argued that the best way to do that is through regular, strategic investments over the long term as opposed to a one-time infusion of funding that will be impossible to sustain, again a nod to the *Endless Frontier Act*.

In addition, several lawmakers discussed the need to enhance the U.S. scientific workforce and asked about NSF's efforts to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion. Many also discussed the need for additional investment in STEM education at the elementary level and for better mentoring and graduate training.

Recordings of both Science Committee hearings are available on the committee's [website](#). The Research and Technology Subcommittee plans to mark up the *NSF for the Future Act* on [May 13](#), after which it will go to the full committee for consideration. In addition, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has scheduled a markup of the *Endless Frontier Act* for [May 12](#). It remains unclear how or if the relevant sides plan to work out the differences between their respective bills. Stay tuned to COSSA's coverage for more as these bills move forward.

New from COSSA

COSSA Joins Science Organizations Highlighting Diversity in STEM on "WMPD Day"

On May 12, scientific organizations, including COSSA, the Federation of Associations in Behavioral Brain Sciences, and SAGE Publishing, will observe "[Understanding Diversity in STEM: WMPD Day](#)." The event takes its name from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' (NCSES) biannual report: [Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering](#). Organizations will hold events throughout the day to recognize, celebrate, and build on the contributions of women, minorities, and person with disabilities in the STEM enterprise. Scheduled activities include a [kickoff event](#) with experts from NCSES to discuss the most recent WMPD report (11 AM ET), a mid-day event from FABBS on [LGBTQ+ and Multiracial Demographics in WMPD](#) (1PM ET), and a [closing event](#) from the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and SAGE Publishing on building a more diverse and dynamic STEM workforce (4PM ET). A complete list of events is available on the [WMPD Day website](#).

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Doubling NSF Budget Gains Support of House Science Panel (May 13, 2002)

In celebration of COSSA's 40th anniversary, we are diving into the decades of [Washington Update archives](#) to share articles from years past that resonate with today's news.

With the five year doubling of the National Institutes of Health's budget about to come to a successful end, the focus has shifted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and its budget needs. For the past two years, Senators Christopher Bond (R-MO) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) have enunciated their support for doubling NSF's budget over five years. Unfortunately, financial constraints and competing spending priorities have kept them from delivering on this promise from their perches as Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate VA, HUD, Appropriations Subcommittee (both have held each position in the past two years due to the shift in Senate control caused by the defection of Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-VT) from the Republican party).

On May 7, the House Science Committee led by its Chairman Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) jumped into the fray with a bill to reauthorize the NSF for three years that would provide a 15 percent increase each year, thus placing the Foundation on a doubling track. The legislation, H.R. 4664, received bipartisan endorsement from Rep. Ralph Hall (D-TX), Ranking Democrat on the Science panel, as well as Research Subcommittee Chair Rep. Nick Smith (R-MI) and Ranking Democrat Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX). Johnson had introduced her own doubling reauthorization bill last year.

At a press conference, where Reps. Vern Ehlers (R-MI), Connie Morella (R-MD), and Lamar Smith (R-TX) also endorsed H.R. 4664, Boehlert proclaimed: "This bill will help NSF get the real money it needs to succeed in all its tasks." He further justified the increased spending

by asserting that "NSF has the broadest research mission of any Federal science agency and the clearest educational mission. It needs the funding that goes with that expansive - and expensive - mandate." Many representatives of the science and engineering community, most of whom, including COSSA, issued press statements supporting the budget doubling, attended the press conference.

[Read more from this issue.](#)

May Headlines to Feature Deep Dive on NCSES Diversity in STEM Report

COSSA members can sign up for the monthly [COSSA Headlines](#) webchat to catch up on the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month and answer your questions. Stick around for our deep dive discussion on [Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering](#), with [Dr. Elizabeth Grieco](#), Senior Analyst at the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).



Congressional News

Senate Committee Considers Lander Nomination to OSTP

On April 29, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a [hearing](#) to discuss the nomination of Dr. Eric Lander as President Biden's pick to lead the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), a role that the President has [elevated](#) to Cabinet-level. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) chaired the hearing and in her opening remarks, she acknowledged Lander's scientific accomplishments, but also noted concerns about past actions related to women and minorities in STEM fields. The hearing provided an opportunity to clear the record on these and other issues and to explore Dr. Lander's positions and goals if confirmed as OSTP director.

In his prepared remarks, Dr. Lander discussed the importance of inclusion in science and technology, highlighting the uneven opportunity provided across gender, race, and geography and the often unwelcoming nature of careers in science to women and people of color. In his role at OSTP, if confirmed, Dr. Lander promised that OSTP's work will be rooted in equity, that he will hire an OSTP staff that "resembles the American population," and that the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) will be "the most diverse in history."

Questions from the Committee tackled a variety of topics, including OSTP's role and plans related to climate change, scientific integrity, and pandemic recovery, as well as technologies of the future, cybersecurity, scientific workforce needs, disparity of NSF support to smaller institutions and smaller states, and enhancing partnerships with industry.

A committee vote on Dr. Lander's nomination has not yet been scheduled.

Executive Branch News

Minerva Research Initiative Announces FY 2021 Funding Opportunities

The Minerva Research Initiative, the signature social science research program within the Department of Defense (DOD), has [announced](#) research opportunities for fiscal year (FY) 2021 and listed several target research topics for the program. Minerva aims to apply social science research to critical national security questions and inform broader DOD decision-making based on this research. The following nine topics have been listed as key areas of interest for research to address:

- Social Implications of Environmental Change
- Resource Competition, Social Cohesion, and Strategic Climate Resilience
- Security Risks in Ungoverned, Semi-Governed, and Differently-Governed Spaces
- Analysis of Foreign Influence Operations in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- Community Studies on Online and Offline Influence
- Computational Social Science Research on Difficult-to-Access Environments
- Social and Cultural Implications of Artificial Intelligence
- Humans and Outer Space
- Management and Information in the Defense Environment

Updates to the funding opportunities will be posted on the [Minerva website](#) as needed. Applications will be accepted through September 29, 2021. More information is available in the

[funding opportunity announcement](#).

Department of Education Seeking Comments on Education Research, COVID-19, and Equity

On May 3, the U.S. Department of Education released a [request for comments](#) on proposed priorities and definitions within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program. The request cites two proposed priorities that will be used to tailor the EIR program to address timely issues: (1) Measuring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and teachers; and (2) Promoting equity in students' access to educational opportunities.

The request also proposes three new definitions to be used for applications of the EIR program:

- "High-quality tutoring", defined as tutoring based on evidence-based strategies to support success in the classroom, delivered in a small-group or individual setting from well-trained tutors, and is tailored to the student's need and ability.
- "Personalized learning", defined as instruction that is aligned with rigorous college- and career-ready standards so that the pace of learning and the instructional approach are tailored to the needs of individual learners.
- "Underserved students", defined as high-need students as determined by one or more self-identified demographic and socioeconomic factors.

Comments will be accepted through June 2, 2021. More information is available in the [Federal Register](#).

NSB Seeks Nominations for 2022 Vacancies

Nominations are being sought for to fill eight upcoming vacancies on the National Science Board (NSB), the policy-making body of the National Science Foundation (NSF) that also serves as an independent advisor to the President and Congress on federal science policy. The Board consists of 24 members who serve staggered six-year terms, with the NSF director serving as a 25th ex officio member. Nominations are considered by the NSB, which makes recommendations to the White House and new members of the Board are appointed by the President. For the incoming class of 2022-2028, the NSB is particularly interested in individuals with expertise in cyberinfrastructure and computational science, private-sector technology management, translation/innovation/partnerships, promotion of diversity and minority serving institutions, geoscience, STEM education and the science of learning, and engineering. More on these and other selection criteria are available in the [NSB's Dear Colleague letter](#). More information on the nomination process is available on the [NSB website](#). Nominations are due by May 31, 2021.

Science Community News

Nominations Sought for CNSTAT Committee on Evaluating 2020 Census

The [Committee on National Statistics](#) (CNSTAT) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) is accepting nominations for its Panel to Evaluate the Quality of the 2020 Census. This panel will prepare a consensus study report that will serve as a thorough operational and procedural review of the 2020 Census, to both assess the trustworthiness of the 2020 Census data products and to provide solid ground for the testing and experimentation that will lead to the 2030 Census.

CNSTAT is seeking nominees with expertise in survey and census methodology, including management of large-scale survey field operations; statistical and data science experience in the federal statistical system and in state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies; geography and population demography, including address list building and maintenance, generation of legal/political/service district boundaries, and assessment of special populations; and systems engineering, operations research and evaluation, and methods for ensuring privacy and confidentiality. Nominations may be submitted by completing the [nomination form](#) by May 14, 2021.

National Academies Convenes Activities Exploring the Future of Education Research and Statistics

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) has launched several activities in partnership with the Department of Education to identify areas for growth in the fields of education research and education statistics in the federal government, especially programs within the Department's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). On May 10, the

National Academies panel on [A Vision and Roadmap for Education Statistics in 2030 and Beyond](#) held its first public [meeting](#) to develop a plan for modernizing education statistics at IES's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by the year 2030. The panel will produce a report that prioritizes areas and activities for NCES to pursue for the remainder of the decade and outlines a vision for what the agency should aspire to be and how it should operate.

Another NASEM panel, [Opportunities for the National Assessment of Educational Progress in an Age of AI and Pervasive Computation: A Pragmatic Vision for 2030 and Beyond](#), will be hold its first [meetings](#) on May 13-14 to discuss the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a Congressionally-mandated assessment administered by NCES for grade-school children in core subjects. The panel will aim to identify innovations for the assessment, especially to incorporate digital technology and reduce the costs of administering the assessment over the next ten years. The panel will produce a short, accessible report that makes recommendations for potential changes to NAEP.

A third NASEM panel on [The Future of Education Research at the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education](#), will convene to provide recommendations to IES on potential improvements to be made for research within IES's National Center for Education Research (NCER) and National Center for Special Education Research (NCSEER). Topics the panel will address include potential gaps in research areas, best practices for organizing application requests for research, new research methods that should be encouraged, and new investments for research training that may benefit the institute. Although the panel's meetings dates have yet to be publicly announced, the committee will publish a report making conclusions and recommendations for IES.

COSSA Member Spotlight

NYU Professor Anna Harvey Named Next SSRC President

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC), a COSSA member, has [named](#) Anna Harvey, a leading scholar of government, law, and inequality, and professor of politics at New York University, as its 15th president and CEO. Dr. Harvey succeeds Alondra Nelson, who has since [taken a key role](#) in the Biden Administration's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Harvey, a political scientist by training is a founding director of NYU's Public Safety Lab and also holds appointments as professor of law and of data science. She assumes her new role on July 1.

AAPSS to Host Virtual Moynihan Prize Event with William Nordhaus

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS) and SAGE Publishing will co-host a [Moynihan Prize](#) event on May 13 at 3:00pm ET titled "A Turning Point for International Climate Policy? New Approaches to Environmental and Economic Cooperation." The event will include a webinar and panel discussion focused on international economic and regulatory approaches to environmental policy Nobel laureate and Moynihan Prize recipient William Nordhaus. The event will take place at 3. More details and information on registration is available [here](#).

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 5/7/2021: [COSSA Statement in Support of the National Science Foundation for the Future Act \(H.R. 2225\)](#)
- 4/29/2021: [FY 2022 Testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies](#)
- 4/27/2021: [Coalition for International Education Letter on Higher Education Act Title VI \(International Education\) Reauthorization](#)
- 4/27/2021: [Letter on FY 2022 Investment in Data and Surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- AAAS/Subaru: [SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books](#) (Closes: July 19, 2021)
- AAAS/Kavli Foundation: [Science Journalism Awards](#) (Closes: July 15, 2021)
- AAAS: [2022 Award for Science Diplomacy](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- AAAS: [2022 Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- AAAS: [2022 Early Career Award for Public Engagement with Science](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- AAAS: [2022 Mani L. Bhaumik Award for Public Engagement with Science](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)

- AAAS: [2022 John P. McGovern Award Lecture in the Behavioral Sciences](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- AAAS: [2022 Mentor Awards](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- AAAS: [Newcomb Cleveland Prize](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- AAAS: [2022 Philip Hauge Abelson Prize](#) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- EPA: [Nominations for Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee \(CASAC\) Membership](#) (Closes: May 3, 2021) (Closes: June 30, 2021)
- NSF: [Call for Nominations: National Science Board, Class of 2022-2028](#) (Closes: May 31, 2021)
- NEW: NASEM: [Panel to Review and Evaluate the Quality of the 2020 Census](#) (Closes: May 14, 2021)

New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- NIH/NCCIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Stress Management in Relation to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (Closes: October 7, 2021)
- NEW: DOD/Minerva: [FY 2021 Minerva Research Initiative Grants Notice](#) (Closes: September 29, 2021)
- NEW: NSF: [Program on Fairness in Artificial Intelligence in Collaboration with Amazon \(FAI\)](#) (Closes: August 3, 2021)
- Trans-Atlantic Platform/NSF: [Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World \(RRR\)](#) (Closes: June 14, 2021)
- NEW: NIH/NCI: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Telehealth in Cancer Care](#) (Closes: June 5, 2021)
- Acquisition Innovation Research Center: [2021 Phase I - Call for Research Proposals](#) (Closes: May 14, 2021)
- NSF: [Future Manufacturing \(FM\)](#) (Closes: May 14, 2021)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NEW: ED: [Proposed Priorities and Definitions - Education Innovation and Research - COVID-19 and Equity](#) (Closes: June 2, 2021)
- NIH/NIAID: [Request for information \(RFI\) on enhancing the science for the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes \(ECHO\) program](#) (Closes: May 25, 2021)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- NEW: NSF/NCSES: [Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering \(2021\)](#)
- NEW: NSF: [Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-21-20, "Promoting Public Trust in the Federal Government through Effective Implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act and Stewardship of the Taxpayer Resources"](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NEW: NIH/NCI: [Health Communication Fellowship in Behavioral Research](#)

Upcoming Events

- VIRTUAL: [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 11-14, 2021
- VIRTUAL: [Understanding Diversity in STEM: WMPD Day](#), May 12, 2021
- VIRTUAL: [COSSA Headlines | May](#), May 13, 2021
- VIRTUAL: AAPSS: [A Turning Point for International Climate Policy? New Approaches to Environmental and Economic Cooperation](#), May 13, 2021
- VIRTUAL: NASEM Seminar: [Perspectives for Reducing Intergenerational Poverty and Promoting Mobility](#), May 14, 2021
- VIRTUAL: NASEM Panel: [Opportunities for the National Assessment of Education Progress in an Age of AI and Pervasive Computation](#), May 13-14, 2021
- VIRTUAL: NCI Webinar: [Telehealth in Cancer Care](#), May 18, 2021
- VIRTUAL: NASEM Seminar: [Examining the Long Term Effects of Investments in Children and Youth](#), May 18, 2021
- VIRTUAL: NASEM Panel: [A Vision and Roadmap for Education Statistics in 2030 and Beyond](#), May 19, 2021
- VIRTUAL: [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#), June 2-4, 2021
- VIRTUAL: [COSSA Headlines | June](#), June 10, 2021
- VIRTUAL: [Research!America Reaching the Peak: A Science and Technology Career Summit](#), June 30, 2021
- VIRTUAL: [COSSA Headlines | July](#), July 8, 2021

- **VIRTUAL:** [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), July 29 - August 1, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), August 6-10, 2021
- **VIRTUAL:** [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), August 8-12, 2021

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@coossa.org.

COSSA 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
 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
 African Studies Association
 American Association of Geographers
 American Council of Learned Societies
 American Evaluation Association
 American Historical Association
 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
 Association of American Law Schools
 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
 Rural Sociological Society
 Social Science History Association
 Society for Personality Assessment
 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
 Southwestern Social Science Association

Affiliates

SAGE Publishing
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 University of Texas, Austin
 University of Virginia
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 Virginia Tech
 West Virginia University
 Yale University

Centers and Institutes

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
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 RTI International
 Social Science Research Council

About COSSA

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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ISSN 0749-4394

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