

THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

WASHINGTON E-UPDATE

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Budget and Appropriations Update – After a weekend shutdown in January, Congress managed to pass a three-week continuing resolution to reopen the federal government and renew the Children’s Health Insurance program for six years. But the current CR expires on February 8, leaving Congress to face the threat of yet another government shutdown. By then, White House officials and congressional leaders are hoping to strike a two-year deal that would raise spending limits on defense and nondefense programs, clearing the way for a final appropriations package for the fiscal year that began four months ago.

But even if such a deal were reached, one—and possibly two—short-term CRs will be needed to fund the government until a final spending package can get written. It could likely take until April before FY 2018 appropriations are completed. Absent that, Congress faces the prospect of endless continuing resolutions that leave the government on autopilot for months.

So far, Democrats are not on the same page about whether they are willing to decouple a spending caps deal and an DACA agreement on Dreamers. Congressional Republicans will likely add money to the next CR for community health centers as a way to cobble together the votes on both sides needed to pass another stopgap spending bill to avoid yet another shutdown.

And as if there wasn’t enough drama already, Congress faces a contentious vote to raise the debt limit in in early March.

In a significant move for the leadership of the appropriations process next year, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) announced that he will retire at the end of this Congress, despite having four years left on his term as chairman. A moderate, Frelinghuysen has challenged House leadership in the past year over repealing Obamacare and the recent tax bill. The retirement notice set off a three-way scramble for the chairmanship next year.

Return of spending earmarks under consideration in the House

Congressionally directed spending earmarks received bipartisan support from 21 Members of Congress who testified January 17 at a hearing by the House Rules Committee examining a possible return to the process. Florida Congressman Tom

Rooney has been leading an effort for several years to reinstate the use of earmarks in certain circumstances and with new transparency.

During the hearing Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions, R-TX, detailed how the earmark process might move forward and he expressed optimism that it could happen soon.

“We need to make sure that what happens when an appropriations bill is signed that we know what the money will be spent for, that we can take responsibility for that and that the administration likewise will be expected to play through that process,” Sessions said. “As opposed to a process where \$5 to \$15 billion is given, the administration makes its own decisions and we sit back and guess or gamble at what those outcomes will be.”

“There is significant sentiment on my side of the aisle that this needs to be done,” House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer said. “I believe that we should take action to reinstate the use of the authority given to Congress under Article One, Section Nine, Clause Seven to direct spending in the way the Congress deems appropriate.” Hoyer said that he would recommend to his members that they support a proposal to bring back “congressionally directed spending” if one is put forward.

Conservative Republican Study Committee Chairman Mark Walker, R-N.C., objected to a return to earmarking, arguing that if the GOP takes that step it would lose control of the House during the 2018 midterm elections. Walker also told the panel that just because a constitutional authority argument can be made for bringing back earmarks, that doesn't mean lawmakers should exercise this specific tool. “Effective conservatism requires the right policy, the right message and the right voice,” Walker said.

A second hearing was held January 18 generating mixed views on the topic, with five outside groups testifying, including the Bipartisan Policy Center (in favor), Taxpayers for Common Sense and Citizens Against Government Waste (both opposed.)

The earmark ban began in January of 2011 when the GOP took control of the House and instituted the change following a few high profile abuses. Earmarks had represented relatively small percentage, less than 1 percent of annual discretionary spending. House lawmakers will have to decide if they want to move forward with a proposal this year and change the rules, or wait until the next session of Congress begins next January. However, the Senate would also have to decide to go along. President Trump seemed to support a return to earmarking in a recent White House meeting when he encouraged Members to reconsider the ban.

Some Senators say the practice would restore constitutional appropriations authority, while others feel that earmarking is simply too notorious to bring it back. “I think it's the job of the Congress to decide how the money is to be spent and the president's job is then to see that the Congress' direction was followed through,” Senator Roy Blunt (R-

MO), a senior appropriator, said. "I'd support it, though I think it would be important to reform the earlier process, so that people are comfortable with it." He said he doubted it would return this year.

Other appropriators such as Senators Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Susan Collins (R-ME) have expressed interest in bringing back earmarks in some form. Shelby, who is next in line to become Appropriations Committee chairman, said he supports "directed appropriations" but noted there would have to be a substantial discussion among senators because earmarks became "abused and pejorative" before they were banned in 2011.

Collins said that any return of earmarks in the Senate would have to be a transparent process where the earmarks are posted online, the member's name would have to be attached, the earmark would have to be for public entities, and earmarks would be prohibited from being "airdropped" into conference reports. "When we gave up that authority, it was a massive transfer of power from the legislative branch to the executive branch, and I think we know best what is most needed in our state." Collins said.

Proposed cuts slated for renewable energy research in next budget

Renewable energy research programs at the Department of energy are apparently targeted for large proposed cuts in the Administration's upcoming Fiscal 2019 budget request to Congress, according to documents obtained by the *Washington Post* January 31. OMB has announced the 2019 budget will be publicly released February 12.

The *Post* reported the programs, such as the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office, could sustain a 72 percent reduction if the proposals were enacted. Staff cuts were also proposed for the office to reduce personnel numbers from 680 to 450.

Similar reductions were proposed in the 2018 budget and Congress so far has not agreed to major cuts in the programs. In a statement reacting to the *Post* article, influential Senate appropriator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) noted, "The president suggests a budget, but, under the Constitution, Congress passes appropriations bills."

The *Post* said the documents show that the budget proposal would "ax research in fuel efficient vehicles by 82 percent, bioenergy technologies by 82 percent, advanced manufacturing by 75 percent and solar energy technology by 78 percent. The proposal would cut funds for electric car technologies and fuel efficient vehicles — at \$307 million currently the biggest of the program areas — to \$ 56 million in 2019." To read the article, [click here](#).

Florida Poly President testifies on autonomous vehicle technology



Florida Polytechnic University President Randy Avent testified on an expert hearing panel convened by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation January 24 to discuss progress in the development of driverless vehicles and potential Federal policies to be implemented in the process of working towards full adoption of autonomous vehicle use.

Others on the panel included Tim Kentley-Klay, CEO and Co-Founder, Zoox, Mike Mansuetti, President of Robert Bosch North America, and Luke Schneider, President of Audi Mobility in the U.S.

Committee Ranking Member Sen. Bill Nelson's opening statement was complimentary of Florida Poly and its efforts in the innovation of AVs with an emphasis on safety. Sen. Nelson said, "I am particularly excited about Florida's role in the development of autonomous technology...The university is working in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation to develop and operate a \$42 million, 475-acre autonomous vehicle testing facility in Polk County known as Suntrax. I would like to extend my congratulations to Florida Polytechnic for this achievement. I am confident this world-class facility will play a vital role in the ongoing research to improve autonomous technology and ultimately provide for the safe and efficient deployment of self-driving cars."

Committee Chairman John Thune emphasized the importance of new technologies such as automated vehicles (AVs) for the future of the automotive industry, as over 37,000 people lost their lives on U.S. roadways in 2016. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), reported as many as 94% of these crashes are attributed to human error, which demonstrates a need for AV technology on our roadways, according to Sen. Thune. He stressed the importance of allowing this innovation to thrive while making sure the technology is safe and reliable. Sen. Thune discussed the AV START Act (see below), noting “the bipartisan AV START Act, which Senator Peters and I introduced, accomplishes these goals by building on the existing regulatory framework to prioritize safety through increased reporting and oversight, thus promoting public safety and building public confidence and trust.”

Sen. Thune asked the witnesses, “how do you convince skeptics of AVs to be accepting of the technology?” Mr. Schneider (Audi Mobility U.S.) spoke favorably of language contained within the AV Act stating, which he expected would make consumers more comfortable with innovative technology like AVs. Mr. Kentley-Klay (Zoox, Inc.) added to the topic, noting the expected bell curve associated with consumer trust, which will take time and careful implementation of AVs in restricted areas, initially, to gain public confidence. Mr. Kentley-Klay mentioned that it would be beneficial to start AVs in an “open-city” setting due to the low speeds and low risks associated with an urban environment. Pres. Avent offered a different perspective that AV technology needs a more holistic approach. According to Pres. Avent, city testing can’t account for rare incidents that might take some time to figure out, which is why there should be more close-track testing in order to work on those fringe cases. Due to these obstacles, Pres. Avent said he believes gaining full government and consumer trust will be present challenges, and full adoption of AVs is likely 10 years away.

To watch the hearing webcast or read written testimony, [click here](#).

***SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

The AV START Act (S 1885) would do the following:

- Provide enhanced safety oversight. The bill would require manufacturers to submit safety evaluation reports to the DOT containing information about how they address important factors such as system safety, crashworthiness, and cybersecurity through documented testing, validation, and assessment. This new requirement, based on the voluntary safety assessment proposed by the DOT, would enhance the DOT’s defect enforcement authority, while providing assurances to consumers and State and local governments.
- Reinforce Federal, State and local roles. The bill would ensure the DOT’s traditional responsibility for regulating HAVs and automated driving systems (ADS) with respect to the safety evaluation report subject areas. Additional research and coordination with State and local governments on traffic safety and law enforcement challenges is also included in the measure.

- Reduce barriers to deployment. S. 1885 would expand the Secretary's existing discretionary authority to implement an enhanced review and approval process for Federal Motor Vehicle Standards (FMVSS) exemptions for up to 80,000 vehicles per manufacturer in the third year after enactment.
- Maintain status quo for trucks and buses. The bill would clarify that the new authorities for self-driving technologies in the AV START Act apply to vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or less and maintain the DOT's existing authority for advancing automated truck and bus technology in the future.
- Prescribe the path for long-term safety regulation. The bill would provide the DOT with the technical expertise needed to set new and updated safety regulations by creating a committee of experts to identify and develop recommended standards. It would further direct the DOT to do the following: consider these recommendations for potential rulemaking governing HAV safety; and update the crash data collection database to include new HAV-specific information.
- Bring existing rules up to speed. S. 1885 would direct the DOT to act quickly to modernize existing FMVSS, which were written before HAVs were envisioned.
- Strengthen cybersecurity protections. The bill would direct each HAV manufacturer to minimize cybersecurity risks to HAVs and to increase consumer cybersecurity awareness. It would authorize the DOT to work with manufacturers to incentivize coordinated vulnerability disclosure policies.
- Improve vehicle safety and data sharing. S. 1885 would establish a committee to make policy recommendations to Congress regarding HAV data ownership, control, and access.
- Promote consumer education. The DOT would be required to work with industry and other government agencies to advance responsible consumer education and marketing, including consumer awareness of the capabilities and limitations of advanced driver assistance systems and HAV systems.
- Increase mobility. The bill would preclude the States from issuing licenses for dedicated HAVs that discriminate on the basis of disability. The DOT would be required to develop best practices regarding HAV accessibility.

Full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

Mattis issues National Defense Strategy

Defense Secretary James Mattis released an unclassified summary of the National Defense Strategy, an 11-page document, during a presentation at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies on January 19.

In doing so on a day the government headed toward an agency shutdown he emphasized the importance of predictable and stable funding as a prerequisite to carrying out the strategy. "No strategy can long survive without necessary funding and the stable, predictable budgets required to defend America. For too long, we have asked our military to stoically carry a 'success at any cost' attitude, as they work tirelessly to accomplish the mission with inadequate and misaligned resources simply because the Congress could not maintain regular order." He pointed out that if the government shutdown occurred that evening, more than 50 percent of DoD's civilian workforce would be furloughed, training for reservists is halted, maintenance operations would stall and some intel work would stop. "How long can you keep good people around when something like this happens?" Mattis said.

The strategy document outlines identifies five key threats: China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and terrorism. Several observers have pointed out that for the first time, all mentions of climate change were deleted from the paper, despite the fact that it has been listed as a key threat in the past.

The strategy calls for a "motivated and highly skilled civilian work force." It also outlined an approach that involves relying on innovation and experts, including basic science researchers and engineers. To read the strategy, [click here](#).

DoD Science Initiative open for university applications

The Defense Department announced an award competition this month for the Defense Enterprise Science Initiative (DESI), a new pilot program that supports university-industry collaboration on use-inspired basic research. DESI is sponsored by the Basic Research Office, Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and executed in collaboration with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Air Force Research Laboratory, and the Army Research Office.

DESI incentivizes use-inspired basic research, or a scientific study directed toward increasing fundamental knowledge and understanding in the context of end-use applications. Projects funded by DESI will bring together university and industry teams with the aim of discovering novel solutions to challenging defense and national security problems. Through these projects, DESI aims to accelerate the impact of basic research results on defense capabilities, inform existing or future acquisition programs, and support sustainable collaboration between the nation's universities and the private sector.

This year's Broad Agency Announcement is themed around technologies to enable a new generation of sensing, mobility, and autonomy. Research topics include power beaming, highly-maneuverable autonomous unmanned aerial vehicle, soft active composites, and metamaterial-based antennas. Additional topic areas identified by the applicants will also be considered. \$30 million is available for 5 awards. The deadline to submit applications is February 28.

For more information, please see the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) FA9550-18-S-B001 at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299112>.

Air Force to hold innovation workshop at USF

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson announced January 18 that the service will conduct a series of innovation workshops at several universities and research centers across the country this year, including a stop at the University of South Florida's campus in Tampa.

In September, the service began a review of its science and technology strategy led by the Air Force Research Laboratory with a focus on identifying the highest priorities for Air Force research and examining the way in which the service conducts its research.

Wilson emphasized the importance of looking beyond internal research to identify opportunities for research and development that will keep America on the cutting edge of air and space power over the next 10-20 years. "Our adversaries are advancing rapidly," Wilson said. "We need to update our research priorities, but validation of research areas isn't enough. We need to rethink the way in which we manage our path-breaking research so that we can effectively partner with others to retain American dominance in air and space power."

The workshop at USF will be held on April 26. The Air Force is also accepting ideas from the public. Registration for the Tampa workshop can be found [here](#) and opportunities for collaboration and public input can be found [here](#). More information can be found in the Air Force's [press release](#).

Senate approves ocean observation bill

The Senate passed the bipartisan "Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act," S.1425, by unanimous consent on January 9, sending the measure to the House.

Sponsored by Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), S.1425 reauthorizes and amends the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 through fiscal year 2021, and encourages the national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) to increase modeling capabilities and product development.

The measure directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to act as the federal agency that implements the system and establishes an IOOS program office to administer the daily operations. The IOOS is a coordinated network of people and technology that generates and disseminates data, information, models, products, and services on coastal waters as well as the Great Lakes in the United

States. Data from the program provides both better predictions of hazardous events and improves forecasting.

The bill also includes the addition of modeling capabilities and product development to IOOS and promotes access to data, while enabling data-sharing between federal and non-federal sources with the public. These provisions are designed to simplify the process through which each regional coastal observing system shares information with each other and the public.

Among its provisions, the bill includes specifications on the National Science Foundation's research on ocean acidification. The NSF's research must include the effects ocean acidification has on marine organisms and ecosystems, the development of methods and technologies to evaluate ocean acidification, and the impacts of multiple stressors on ecosystems, such as the effects of harmful algal blooms, sediment delivery, and zones with depleted oxygen combined with shifts in ocean chemistry.

Nationally, the legislation should improve data management and product development, encourage research and observation technology, and help to fill in informational gaps in ocean monitoring. With the data obtained from the IOOS, the nation will be better-equipped to understand and address the issues that affect our bodies of water. Learn more about the bill [here](#).

Interior Department institutes additional review of academic grant applications

A new Department of Interior policy memo obtained by the Washington Post January 9 details a new grant review procedure for applications by academic researchers that will include what is being called a "political" review to ensure that federal spending is in line with Administration priorities.

A senior Department adviser will review discretionary grants and cooperative agreements above \$50,000. The December 28 memo to DOI assistant secretaries and heads of bureaus and offices states, "Instances circumventing the secretarial priorities or the review process will cause greater scrutiny and will result in slowing down the approval process for all awards."

"Grants and cooperative agreements of any type in any amount may be subject to an after-the-fact review process to ascertain whether the funds were appropriately expended and whether the anticipated benefits were produced," the memo by the Department's budget officer states.

"I'm reviewing this new grant approval regime, but I'm immediately skeptical given the administration's track record," Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) said in a statement. Grijalva is the Ranking Member on the House Committee on Natural Resources with jurisdiction

over the Department. "This grant approval process looks like a backdoor way to stop funds going to legitimate scientific and environmental projects."

Interior provided \$806 million in project grants and \$763 million in cooperative agreements in fiscal 2016. To read the memo, [click here](#).

NSF seeking institutions to operate research vessels

The Division of Ocean Sciences at the National Science Foundation has opened a competition to select two research institutions to operate two new Regional Class Research Vessels. Total funding for this solicitation is \$8.6 million; the deadline is April 19.

To be eligible, institutions must be members of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) or be capable of becoming UNOLS members prior to taking over responsibility for full vessel operations. Separate proposals are required for each vessel. The full announcement is available [here](#).

Defense Innovation Board recommends STEM career track

At its January 17 meeting, the Defense Innovation Board recommended that the Defense Department of Defense create a new "Innovation plus STEM" (I-STEM) career field for its military personnel. The proposal is intended to set up a career track that would protect professional development in the field in concert with their other military career obligations. The Board also agreed to recommend establishment of a technology and innovation training program for the department's senior leaders. To read more, [click here](#).

NSF and NIST directors testify on innovation act implementation

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation held a hearing January 30 to discuss the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA) following its one year anniversary. During this hearing - "One Year Later: The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act", the directors of both the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology testified on behalf of their institutions' progress in implementing the law. To view the hearing, [click here](#).

Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL) greeted the witnesses with an opening statement, which can be found [here](#), illustrating strong support in investing in the advancement of science through federal funding. The senator voiced his concern that this support is compromised in the Administration's proposed FY 2018 budget. The budget suggests NSF and NIST spending should be slashed by 11 percent and 23 percent, respectively. In contrast, the AICA recommended a 4 percent increase for these agencies. The

Senator discussed the possibility of China surpassing the U.S. as the largest investor in Global Research and Development, referencing the National Science Board's recent report ranking China as the second largest investor in R&D. Senator Nelson predicted that if China eclipses the U.S., then the nation would lose its competitive advantage. He ended his statement by encouraging the witnesses to continue their role in protecting scientists and their research, especially through the enactments of AICA.

NSF Director

Dr. France Cordova, director of the National Science Foundation, began her testimony by stating that the AICA is well aligned with NSF's mission. She stated that implementing the AICA has not changed NSF's investment portfolio or NSF's way of research, education, infrastructure, and administration - but rather enhances and strengthens the agency as a whole. Her review of NSF's implementation of AICA requirements began with discussing the AICA Coordinating Committee, which she founded in May 2017. This Committee was established to: "coordinate and oversee the implementation of NSF's response to the AICA; produce an agency wide action plan to identify AICA sections requiring policy development or executive management decisions; and develop a central repository of AICA-related tasks, deliverables, and documentation."

Cordova discussed major interests. She spoke on increasing the transparency and accountability of outcomes of research projects by the inclusion of a nontechnical project description within each projects' abstracts; these abstracts are made available to the public. The Director discussed midscale project investments and NSF's steps to begin the selection process of the nearly 200 responses to a NSF issued "Request for Information on Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure". Cordova introduced the agency's first Chief Officer for Research Facilities, Dr. James Ulvestad, who will have full lifecycle oversight responsibility for NSF major research facilities. The Director states that Ulvestad, using newly required independent cost estimates and analyses of operational proposals, will greatly improve oversight of NSF Major Multi-User Research Facility Projects.

Cordova spoke on the establishment of the STEM Education Advisory Panel on October 18 and declared that appointments to panel positions will take place within the next two months. This panel is responsible for advising the NSTC Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education (CoSTEM) and recommending improvements to Federal STEM Education programs.

Within the realm of innovation and technology transfer, the director discussed two pilot programs with intentions to promote the development of NSF's Innovation Corps (I-Corps). The first pilot is focused on the Expansion of I-Corps, and the second is focused on developing Follow-On Grants. She then shared how eight, NSF-funded I-Corps sites are working to increase the inclusion of underrepresented populations in entrepreneurship. The link to Cordova's testimony can be found [here](#).

NIST Director

Dr. Walter Copan, Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, presented testimony discussing highlights of AICA in regards to NIST's laboratory programs. These highlights include:

- Codifying NIST's continued efforts in cybersecurity;
- Requiring the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for laboratory programs;
- Authorizing research leading to the development of standards for voting security;
- Supporting broader interactions with academia, international researchers, and industry; and,
- Directing NIST to expand its focus on enabling commercial and industrial applications.

The link to Copan's testimony can be found [here](#).

The questioning segment was brief. Senator Gardner (R-CO) questioned NSF's protocol that insures that the minimal amount of taxpayers' dollars is used towards unnecessary administrative burden. Cordova's answer included discussion of the streamlining of NSF's merit review process, and recommendations provided by the National Science Board task force on administrative burden. Senator Gardner also asked how increasing the U.S. GDP percentage allocated to R&D - from .7% to 2%, would impact the U.S. economy. Senator Peters (D-MI) focused on the topics of NSF's methods of collaboration with other U.S. federal agencies, such as NASA, NIH, DOD and NSA. Senator Cortez Masto (D-NV) voiced approval of NSF's commitment to the inclusion of minorities and women in NSF's I-Corps program, and discussed [S.1968](#) Code Like a Girl – a bill Senator Cortez Masto sponsors with direct NSF application.

Senate hearings developing info for HEA reauthorization

The Senate HELP Committee has embarked on a series of hearings to begin preparations for writing a draft authorization for the Higher Education Act expected later in the spring.

FAFSA simplification

Looking for ways to streamline the FAFSA process, the Committee convened a January 18 hearing on "Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency." Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) began the full committee hearing by discussing FAFSA complexity and the need to streamline it. He mentioned legislation that he had previously worked on with other Senators that would consolidate several federal student loan and grant programs into fewer and more centralized programs.

Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) shared Alexander's sentiments about the complexity of the federal student aid process and advocated for greater transparency with regard to tuition estimates presented to students prior to enrolling in college.

Witnesses included:

- Dr. Matthew Chingos, Director, Education Policy Program, Urban Institute
- Joanna Darcus, Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation Racial Justice Fellow
- Dr. Susan Dynarski, Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan
- Laura Keane, Chief Policy Officer, UAspire
- Dr. Russel Lowery-Hart, President, Amarillo College

There was generally bipartisan consensus among the committee members that:

- The net cost of higher education is too expensive for the average American
- Loans, grants and financial aid applications and repayment systems need to be simplified.

Members of the committee were generally in agreement with proposals offered by the witnesses. The committee is planning to hold another hearing on January 25 to examine access and innovation. In a [press release](#), Chair Alexander said ““There is a bipartisan consensus that students looking for federal financial aid to go to college need a much simpler system so that it is not a barrier to college for the very students the aid is intended to help.” The full hearing was recorded and is available [here](#).

Summary of witness testimony:

Laura Keene is the Chief Policy Officer at UAspire in Philadelphia, PN. She advises high school students on college affordability and helps them navigate the application and enrollment process. In her experience, she discovered that one-third of the tuition letters she receives from colleges and universities do not include the full net cost of tuition and fees, and two-thirds of tuition letters factor grants, loans and work-study funds into the cost of tuition without specifying the whole tuition amount nor the amounts of each loan or grant.

In her [supplemental documentation](#), she identified seven problems with tuition letters provided to prospective students:

1. Inconsistent/inaccurate terminology
2. Missing cost information
3. Combined and unidentified aid
4. Missing and varied calculation of remaining costs
5. Direct PLUS loan listed under awards
6. Work-study listed under awards
7. Lack of clear next steps.

She proposed solutions to each of these problems, namely performing consumer testing on the FAFSA and tuition award letters, creation of a federal, standardized format with line items, clear residency cost information and a more specific, itemized

net cost calculator to provide more accurate information regarding the true net cost of tuition and relevant expenses.

Dr. Lowery-Hart's testimony focused on the financial burdens that students bear by choosing to enroll in college. He advocated for an increase in the total amount of Pell Grant funding disbursed to students, simplifying the FAFSA, expanding SNAP benefits eligibility to work-study students, encourage state and federal financial aid programs to prioritize need-based disbursement and re-institute year-round Pell so students can use it during summer semesters. His full written testimony can be found [here](#).

Joanna Darcus advocated for a system of income-driven repayment (IDR). Many borrowers become delinquent and default on their loans because they could not afford their monthly payments. Ms. Darcus argued that federal student loans do not take things like salary and living expenses into account when calculating monthly payments for some borrowers, and the current system does not equitably address these issues. She also stated that many providers do not inform borrowers of IDR options and do not adequately assist borrowers in constructing a repayment plan that works for their specific financial situation. She asked the committee to consider the following as potential solutions to the issues identified: increase the amount of grants and scholarships disbursed, encourage borrowers to utilize IDR plans, and to make loan data public to give borrowers more information. Her full written testimony can be found [here](#).

Dr. Chingos' testimony echoed that of Chairman Alexander, Dr. Lowery-Hart and Ms. Darcus- advocating for the "one grant, one loan" program similar to Chair Alexander's 2014 [legislation](#), an increase in the amount of funds disbursed through Pell grants and financial aid, as well as an IDR system of repayment. Dr. Chingos also pitched the idea of IDR based on a fixed period of time rather than the balance-based loan under the existing framework. His full written testimony can be found [here](#).

Dr. Dynarski began her testimony by citing figures about student debt in other countries and examining the adverse effects of large amounts of student debt. In short, she found that while students in the United States do not accrue the largest amount of debt, they have the shortest borrowing term of the countries examined, which drives up the value of monthly payments. Other countries use a system of IDR by default, and argues against the system of garnishment utilized in the United States. Her full written testimony can be found [here](#).

Access and Innovation

In the latest hearing January 25 the topic was access and innovation in higher education. Chairman Alexander began the hearing by stating that HEA reauthorization needs to be focused on students and how colleges and universities can provide high quality education for all students, both traditional and nontraditional. Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) expressed agreement with Chair Alexander's opening statement and added that her priority in this conversation would be ensuring access for

underrepresented students and promoting campus safety, especially with regards to sexual assault.

Witnesses included:

- Dr. Joe May, Chancellor, Dallas County Community College District
- Donna Linderman, University Dean for Student Success Initiatives, City University of New York
- Barbara Brittingham, President, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- Dr. Deborah Bushway, Consultant, Competency-Based Education Network
- Michael Larsson, Founder and President, Match Beyond

As the witnesses gave their testimonies focusing on innovation in higher education, there were two main recurring themes from the panelists as well as the Committee members from both parties:

- Quality CBE programs
- Accountability & transparency

Competency-based education (CBE) programs track academic progress based on the skills and knowledge that students must master rather than the amount of time a student spends in a course measured by credit hours. Witnesses and committee members were careful not to equate CBE with distance learning, and emphasized that CBE should be high-quality so that students who complete these programs are truly 'competent' at a minimum. Dr. Bushway, the de facto CBE expert on the panel, explained that in traditional courses, student performance is assessed in different competencies within the course and averaged over the term, measured by credit hours. In CBE programs, performance is derived from achievement in each competency rather than credit hours, so the process is more rigorous and the student outcomes are positive, she said. There was consensus among the whole group that the reauthorized HEA should include clearly-defined standards for CBE, including clear definitions for "quality" and "competent" in order to ensure that non-traditional students are getting a quality education that will adequately prepare graduates for the workforce. The committee agreed to study CBE through demonstration projects around the country before widespread statutory implementation in the HEA.

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) focused her line of questioning on accountability and transparency as well as the growing presence of non-traditional students. She vocalized her support of CBE programs and innovation that drives accessibility such as distance learning, but she wanted to ensure that colleges and universities are transparent and that students have access to data about student outcomes so they can select schools that work best for them. She argued in favor of putting guardrails in place to prevent possible abuses by for-profit colleges. Other committee members shared the desire for accountability and transparency on student outcome data.

The full hearing was recorded and is available [here](#).

Summary of witness testimony:

Dr. Joe May has held executive roles in several state college systems and individual colleges. In his written testimony, he advocated for allowing colleges flexibility to leverage private partnerships, requiring public reporting of job access information and individuals awarded workforce Pell grants, allowing Pell grants to be used for vocational and certificate training programs with 150 clock hours of instruction rather than the traditional credit hour model, bolster the IPED system to enhance transparency and to allow DACA recipients to be eligible for Pell grants. His full testimony can be found [here](#).

Donna Linderman is the executive director of the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) at the City University of New York (CUNY). She works largely with minority students and non-traditional students, and doubled the standard state graduation rate for Associate's degree programs from 25% to 53%. She advocated for evidence-based models like ASAP focused on improving graduation rates. Her full testimony can be found [here](#).

Dr. Barbara Brittingham is the President of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. She advocated for measures in the HEA to ensure quality in distance learning education, measures to ensure quality CBE programs, disaggregation of faculty roles and permission for accreditors to conduct experiments. Her full testimony can be found [here](#).

Dr. Deborah Bushway is a former Senior Advisor from the U.S. Department of Education and currently works with Universities as a consultant to develop, launch and scale CBE programs. She assesses the current context of CBE in higher education in her written [testimony](#), and recommends that Congress create a definition for CBE within the HEA, and that they authorize a demonstration project in order to test CBE before nationwide implementation.

Mike Larsson is the co-founder and President of Match Beyond, a Boston-based non-profit that helps low-income students enroll and prepare for college and leverage their degrees into career-track jobs. He advocated for transparency with regards to outcomes data that would enrich students and prospective students with job placement and salary data so that they can make more informed decisions when selecting a school. He also advocated for holding universities accountable based on outcomes. His full testimony can be found [here](#).

Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies

Agency: DoD

DARPA – Microsystems Technology Office

Program: Millimeter-Wave Digital Arrays (MIDAS)

Description: DARPA seeks innovative proposals for the development of element-level digital beamforming array technology at millimeter wave frequencies. The primary goal of the program is to develop and demonstrate a tile building block sub-array (>16 elements) that supports scaling to large arrays (100's-10,000+) in the 18-50 GHz band. It is expected that this will be enabling hardware for multi-function, multi-beam phased array applications and emerging massive multiple-input-multiple-output (MIMO) techniques in communication and sensing. See the full HR001118S0020 document attached.

Due Date: 3/26/2018

Award Ceiling: not specified

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300257>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DoD

DARPA – Biological Technologies Office

Program: PREventing EMerging Pathogenic Threats (PREEMPT)

Description: DARPA is soliciting innovative proposals for research to develop new tools and models to quantify the likelihood of a virus to jump from an animal host into humans, and to develop and validate new scalable technologies to target potential human-capable viral pathogens in wild reservoirs and/or mosquito vectors to prevent transmission to humans.

Due Date: 3/27/2018

Award Ceiling: not specified

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300198>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DoD

Office of Naval Research

Program: Enhanced Superconductors for Future Naval Applications

Description: The Office of Naval Research (ONR) is interested in receiving white papers and proposals in support of advancing high temperature superconducting wire technology for future naval applications. Work under this program will consist of basic and applied research, and it will be funded under Budget Activity 1 and 2 (as defined in

DoD Financial Management Regulation Vol. 2B, Ch. 5). The overall S&T effort is envisioned to be conducted at the TRL 1-3 stage. The overall objective of this program is to advance the state of art characteristics of high temperature superconductors to support applications demanding power delivery, pulsed current delivery, AC and DC magnetic fields, and magnetic energy storage. Interested parties are welcome to propose against one or more topics listed below.

Due Date: 4/10/2018

Award Ceiling: \$450,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300005>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DoD

DARPA – Tactical Technology Office

Program: Subterranean (SubT) Challenge

Description: The goal of the DARPA Subterranean Challenge is to discover innovations that enable integrated and rapid mapping, navigation, and search of complex environments.

Due Date: 3/23/2018

Award Ceiling: not specified

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DoD

Air Force Research Lab

Program: Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) 2030 Science and Technology (S&T) Study

Description: Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson announced in September 2017 inception of the "S&T Strategy 2030" study. The study's objective is to update the Air Force methods for conducting research and development (R&D) to meet the projected national security challenges of 2030. Secretary Wilson appointed the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) to lead this strategy development. The Air Force's goals for the study are: 1. Evaluate technical approaches and focus areas to advance the Air

Force's mission through R&D; and 2. Improve Air Force processes and organizational structures to manage early stage research.

Due Date: 2/20/2018

Award Ceiling: \$2,500,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: Department of Education

Institute of Education Services

Program: Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Description: The Research Networks Focused on Critical Problems of Education Policy and Practice Program is designed to direct resources and attention to education problems or issues that are a high priority for the Nation, and to create a structure and process for researchers who are working on these issues to share ideas, build new knowledge, and strengthen their research and dissemination capacity.

Due Date: 4/5/2018

Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300253>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

Administration for Community Living

Program: Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers

Description: Field-Initiated RERC on Individual Mobility and Manipulation: In the area of individual mobility and manipulation, NIDILRR seeks to fund research and development to enhance mobility, physical movement, and manipulation of the environment, and to accommodate limitations in manual dexterity among individuals with a variety of disabling conditions. Rehabilitation engineering in this area should result in new or improved products, devices, or technological advances that allow individuals with disabilities to be more mobile, and to manipulate their environments more effectively.

Due Date: 3/19/2018

Award Ceiling: \$925,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299843>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

Administration for Community Living

Program: Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (2)

Description: Field-Initiated RERC on Individual Mobility and Manipulation: In the area of individual mobility and manipulation, NIDILRR seeks to fund research and development to enhance mobility, physical movement, and manipulation of the environment, and to accommodate limitations in manual dexterity among individuals with a variety of disabling conditions. Rehabilitation engineering in this area should result in new or improved products, devices, or technological advances that allow individuals with disabilities to be more mobile, and to manipulate their environments more effectively.

Due Date: 3/12/2018

Award Ceiling: \$925,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299815>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: Medications Development for the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder

Description: The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite cooperative agreement applications for research that advances promising compounds through the drug development pipeline for the treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD). NIAAA is seeking applications for medications development research projects from both for-profit and not-for-profit entities, including academic institutions, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, private and public foundations, small businesses not eligible for the SBIR/STTR program and single entities able to demonstrate significant resource commitment to the proposed project.

Due Date: 3/20/2018

Award Ceiling: not specified

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300143>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: Discovery of the Genetic Basis of Childhood Cancers and Structural Birth Defects

Description: As part of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program (Kids First), the NIH invites applications to use samples from pediatric cohorts for whole genome sequencing at a Kids First-supported sequencing center. Applicants are encouraged to propose sequencing of existing pediatric cancer cohorts to elucidate the genetic contribution to childhood cancers, or to expand the range of disorders included within the Kids First Data Resource to investigate the genetic etiology of structural birth defects. Whole genome, exome, and transcriptome sequencing are available for tumor or affected tissue when justified. These data will become part of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Data Resource (Kids First Data Resource) for the pediatric research community.

Due Date: 3/22/2018

Award Ceiling: not specified

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300113>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: Emotional Function in Normal Aging and/or MCI and AD/ADRD

Description: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications that expand on foundational research demonstrating generally improved emotional function and emotion regulation with aging, to further clarify the trajectories of change in emotion processing and linked neurobiological factors in adults who are aging normally, as well as in individuals with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), Alzheimer's disease, and related dementias (ADRD). The goal is three-fold: to advance understanding of (1) normative maturational shifts in emotional processes, (2) how dysfunction in the integrative neural-behavioral mechanisms of emotional function might manifest in MCI and the early stages of ADRD, and/or (3) how such dysfunction might account for any of the neuropsychiatric symptoms observed in ADRD.

Due Date: 6/22/2018

Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300062>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: Underactive Bladder and Detrusor Activity in Aging (R21 Clinical Trial)

Description: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications that propose basic, clinical, or translational research on underactive bladder (UAB) and detrusor underactivity (DU) and its consequences in aging and in older persons. Applications should focus on the 1) biology, etiology and pathophysiology of DU or UAB in animal models and/or older adults; 2) translation of basic/clinical research into clinical practice and health decision-making; 3) diagnosis, prevention, management and clinical outcomes of UAB in older adults; and/or 4) epidemiology and risk factors for the development of DU/UAB with advancing age.

Due Date: 5/7/2018

Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300020>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: Underactive Bladder and Detrusor Activity in Aging (Clinical Trial Optional)

Description: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites pilot/feasibility projects that propose basic, clinical, or translational research on underactive bladder (UAB) and detrusor underactivity (DU) and its consequences in aging and in older persons. Applications should focus on the 1) biology, etiology and pathophysiology of DU or UAB in animal models and/or older adults; 2) translation of basic/clinical research into clinical practice and health decision-making; 3) diagnosis, prevention, management and clinical outcomes of UAB in older adults; and/or 4) epidemiology and risk factors for the development of DU/UAB with advancing age.

Due Date: 5/7/2018

Award Ceiling: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300019>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

CDC

Program: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis Prevention

Description: The National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) maximizes public health and safety nationally and internationally through elimination, prevention, and control of disease, disability, and early death caused by HIV/AIDS, non-HIV retroviruses, viral hepatitis, other STDs, and TB. Its three overarching goals are to: (1) decrease incidence of infection with HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB; (2) decrease morbidity and mortality from HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB; and (3) decrease health disparities across groups affected by HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB. Timely dissemination of the newest information derived from recent scientific studies on these diseases and CDC recommendations is imperative, but often it is challenging to reach this goal. Conferences play an important role in addressing this gap. In an effort to ease this burden, the purpose of this program is to provide partial support for specific non-Federal conferences focusing on topics that support CDC's goals and recommendations related to HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STDs, TB, and/or adolescent and school health.

Due Date: 3/16/2018

Award Ceiling: \$400,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=298667>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: Hearing Health care for Adults: Improving Access and Affordability

Description: This FOA encourages exploratory and developmental research applications for research on hearing health care in adults in support of improving access and affordability. Further research is needed to strengthen the evidence base with a goal of delivering better health care outcomes in adults.

Due Date: 11/16/2020

Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299935>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

CDC

Program: Advancing Public Health Research in Central America

Description: The purpose of this cooperative agreement is: To conduct and monitor epidemiologic, clinical, and laboratory-based projects, surveillance, and research of important human diseases in Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama) including but not limited to acute febrile illness, antimicrobial resistance and hospital acquired infections, respiratory infections and influenza, enteric illnesses, and other public health threats.

Due Date: 3/9/2018

Award Ceiling: \$45,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299934>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: NIH StrokeNet Clinical Trials and Biomarker Studies for Stroke Treatment and Prevention

Description: This FOA encourages applications for multi-site exploratory and confirmatory clinical trials focused on promising interventions, as well as biomarker-or outcome measure validation studies that are immediately preparatory to trials in stroke prevention, treatment, and recovery. Successful applicants will collaborate and conduct the trial within the NIH StrokeNet. Following peer review, NINDS will prioritize trials among the highest scoring to be conducted in the NIH StrokeNet infrastructure. The NIH StrokeNet National Coordinating Center (NCC) will work with the successful applicant to implement the proposed study efficiently and the National Data Management Center (NDMC) will provide statistical and data management support.

Due Date: 11/5/2020

Award Ceiling: not specified

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299923>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: HHS

NIH

Program: NIDCD Mentored Career Development Award for Postdoctorate Au.D./Ph.D. Audiologists (K01 Clinical Trial Required)

Description: The purpose of the NIDCD Mentored Career Development Award for Postdoctorate Au.D./Ph.D. Audiologists (K01) is to support comprehensive and rigorous postdoctoral research and career development experiences in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences of promising Au.D./Ph.D. audiologists who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators in scientific health-related research fields relevant to NIDCD's mission. This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is designed specifically for applicants proposing to serve as the lead investigator of an independent clinical trial, a clinical trial feasibility study, or a separate ancillary study to an existing trial, as part of their research and career development. Applicants not planning an independent clinical trial, or proposing to gain research experience in a clinical trial led by another investigator, must apply to companion FOA (PAR-18-436).

Due Date: 11/7/2021

Award Ceiling: not specified

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299926>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DOJ

Office on Violence against Women

Program: OVW FY18 Research and Evaluation Initiative

Description: The purpose of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)'s Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative is to research and evaluate approaches to combating domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. By generating more knowledge about strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable, communities that benefit from Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding will be better equipped to align their work with practices that are known to be effective, and they will be more capable of generating empirical knowledge on the efficacy of new and promising ways of doing things

Due Date: 3/6/2018

Award Ceiling: \$450,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300012>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DOJ

Office on Violence against Women

Program: OVW FY18 Training and Technical Assistance Initiative

Description: The primary purpose of the OVW Training and Technical Assistance (TA) Initiative is to provide direct TA to existing and potential grantees and sub-grantees to enhance and support their efforts to successfully implement projects supported by OVW grant funds. OVW's TA is designed to build and enhance the national capacity of civil and criminal justice system professionals and victim services providers to respond effectively to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and foster partnerships among organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address violence against women.

Due Date: 2/15/2018

Award Ceiling: \$2,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299785>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DOJ

National Institute of Justice

Program: NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in STEM

Description: The Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (GRF-STEM) provides awards to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in topic areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States. Applicant academic institutions sponsoring doctoral students are eligible to apply only if the doctoral student's degree program is a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) discipline; and the student's proposed dissertation research has demonstrable implications for addressing the challenges of crime and/or the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.

Due Date: 3/12/2018

Award Ceiling: \$1,500,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299999>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DOJ

National Institute of Justice

Program: NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Social and Behavioral Sciences

Description: The NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Program in Social and Behavioral Sciences is open to doctoral students in all social and behavioral science disciplines. This program provides awards to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the effective administration of criminal justice in the United States. Of particular interest is research on issues deemed critical by the U.S. Department of Justice: violent crime reduction, enhancing investigations and prosecutions, protecting police officers and other public safety personnel, combating the opioid epidemic, victimization, and addressing illegal immigration.

Due Date: 3/12/2018

Award Ceiling: 320,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300018>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: Department of State

Program: USASEAN Relations Think Tank Conference

Description: The U.S. Mission to ASEAN (USASEAN) announces an open competition for organizations to submit applications to organize a conference that examines current issues of interest to the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Proposals should encourage participating organizations to engage in a comprehensive conversation examining and analyzing the current U.S.-ASEAN relationship, particularly on individual and joint responses to opportunities and challenges

Due Date: 3/1/2018

Funding: \$250,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300213>

Contact: support@grants.gov

Agency: Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Program: FY18 Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellowship

Description: The Study of the U. S. Branch (ECA/A/E/USS), Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), invites proposal submissions from accredited U.S. post-secondary education institutions (community colleges, liberal arts colleges, public and private universities); U.S. public and private non-profit organizations; or consortia of organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) (see section C. Eligibility Information in the Notice of Funding Opportunity) for the design and implementation of twelve (12) Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellowship Institutes.

Due Date: 3/12/2018

Award Ceiling: \$5,400,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300041>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Program: FY18 On-Demand Youth Leadership Program

Description: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) invites proposals for the FY 2018 On-Demand Youth Leadership Program. Proposals should illustrate the organization's extent of experience working in different regions of the world, and demonstrating suppleness, adaptability, and originality in programming. Proposals should include actual examples in which the organization has responded quickly to fast changing circumstances in a region or country where they have not worked previously.

Due Date: 3/12/2018

Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300017>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Program: FY18 American English E-Teacher Program

Description: The Office of English Language Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA/A/L) announces an open competition for the FY 2018 American English (AE) E-Teacher Program, which offers foreign English teaching professionals the opportunity for professional development through high-quality virtual exchange components including online university-level Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) methodology courses, online English language learning courses, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), webinars, digital libraries, communities of practice and other types of engaging and innovative virtual learning.

Due Date: 3/12/2018

Award Ceiling: \$5,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300022>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Program: Mali Law Enforcement Training Reform Project

Description: INL is part of the Department of State's multi-faceted response to transnational criminal activity. Dedicated to strengthening criminal justice systems, countering the flow of illegal narcotics, and minimizing transnational crime, INL plays a key role in leading the development and synchronization of U.S. international drug and crime assistance. INL's technical support is tailored to bolster capacities of partner countries through multilateral, regional, and country-specific programs. Mali's history of internal rebellion, weak security and justice institutions, and ongoing risk of terrorism threaten U.S. interest in Mali and the region. Despite the 2015 Peace Accords, weak capacity, political challenges, and ongoing insecurity continue to jeopardize Mali's path to a more stable future.

Due Date: 2/28/2018

Award Ceiling: \$2,500,000.00

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299696>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities

Program: Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

Description: The Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities (IATDH) program supports national or regional (multistate) training programs for scholars, humanities professionals, and advanced graduate students to broaden and extend their knowledge of digital humanities. Through this program NEH seeks to increase the number of humanities scholars and practitioners using digital technology in their research and to broadly disseminate knowledge about advanced technology tools and methodologies relevant to the humanities. The institutes may be a single opportunity or offered multiple times to different audiences. Institutes may be as short as a few days and held at multiple locations or as long as six weeks at a single site.

Due Date: 3/13/2018

Award Ceiling: \$250,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300001>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Smart & Connected Communities (S&CC)

Description: The goal of the NSF Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) program solicitation is to accelerate the creation of the scientific and engineering foundations that will enable smart and connected communities to bring about new levels of economic opportunity and growth, safety and security, health and wellness, and overall quality of life. This goal will be achieved through integrative research projects that pair advances in technological and social dimensions with meaningful community engagement.

Due Date: 2/28/2018

Award Ceiling: \$3,000,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505364&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems

Description: Research and development of mobile imaging geophysical methods for subsurface characterization and monitoring

Due Date: 2/2/2018

Award Ceiling: \$35,262

Website:

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP)

Description: The new HBCU Excellence in Research (EiR) component supports projects that enable STEM and STEM education faculty to further develop research capacity at HBCUs and to conduct research. (see page for more details)

Due Date: 3/1/2018

Award Ceiling: See page for details

Website: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5481&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: Epsalmon@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Studies

Program: Cultural Anthropology Program

Description: The primary objective of the Cultural Anthropology Program is to support basic scientific research on the causes, consequences, and complexities of human social and cultural variability. Anthropological research spans a wide gamut, and contemporary cultural anthropology is an arena in which diverse research traditions and methodologies are valid. Recognizing the breadth of the field's contributions to science,

the Cultural Anthropology Program welcomes proposals for empirically grounded, theoretically engaged, and methodologically sophisticated research in all sub-fields of cultural anthropology.

Due Date: 8/15/2018

Award Ceiling: See page for details

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5388&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: jmantz@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Studies

Program: Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (RIDIR)

Description: As part of NSF's Harnessing the Data Revolution (HDR), the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) seeks to develop user-friendly large-scale next-generation data resources and relevant analytic techniques to advance fundamental research in SBE areas of study. Successful proposals will, within the financial resources provided by the award, construct such databases and/or relevant analytic techniques and produce a finished product that will enable new types of data-intensive research. The databases or techniques should have significant impacts, either across multiple fields or within broad disciplinary areas, by enabling new types of data-intensive research in the SBE sciences.

Due Date: 2/28/2018

Award Ceiling: \$4,500,000

Website: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505168

Contact: jyellen@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Division of Social and Economic Sciences

Program: SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM - Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Awards (Soc-DDRI)

Description: Projects are evaluated using the two Foundation-wide criteria, intrinsic merit and broader impacts. In assessing the intrinsic merit of proposed research, four components are key to securing support from the Sociology Program: (1) the issues investigated must be theoretically grounded; (2) the research should be based on empirical observation or be subject to empirical validation or illustration; (3) the research design must be appropriate to the questions asked; and (4) the proposed research must advance our understanding of social processes, structures and methods.

Due Date: 2/28/2018

Award Ceiling: \$600,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505118&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: kmeyer@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Division of Environmental Biology

Program: Dimensions of Biodiversity

Description: This campaign promotes novel integrative approaches to fill the most substantial gaps in our understanding of the diversity of life on Earth. It takes a broad view of biodiversity, and focuses on the intersection of genetic, phylogenetic, and functional dimensions of biodiversity. Successful proposals must integrate these three dimensions to understand interactions and feedbacks among them. While this focus complements several core programs in BIO, it differs by requiring that multiple dimensions of biodiversity be addressed simultaneously, in novel ways, to understand their synergistic roles in critical ecological and evolutionary processes, especially pertaining to the mechanisms driving the origin, maintenance, and functional roles of biodiversity.

Due Date: 2/28/2018

Award Ceiling: \$15,000,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503446&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: Dimensions@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Division of Mathematical Sciences

Program: Algorithms for Threat Detection (ATD)

Description: The Algorithms for Threat Detection (ATD) program will support research projects to develop the next generation of mathematical and statistical algorithms for analysis of large spatiotemporal datasets with application to quantitative models of human dynamics. The program is a partnership between the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA).

Due Date: 2/20/2018

Award Ceiling: \$3,000,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503427&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: lameson@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation

Program: Leading Engineering for America's Prosperity, Health, and Infrastructure (LEAP HI)

Description: The LEAP HI program challenges the engineering research community to take a leadership role in addressing demanding, urgent, and consequential challenges for advancing America's prosperity, health and infrastructure. LEAP HI proposals confront engineering problems that are too complex to yield to the efforts of a single investigator --- problems that require sustained and coordinated effort from interdisciplinary research teams, with goals that are not achievable through a series of smaller, short-term projects. LEAP HI projects perform fundamental research that may lead to disruptive technologies and methods, lay the foundation for new and strengthened industries, enable notable improvements in quality of life, or reimagine and revitalize the built environment.

Due Date: 2/5/2018

Award Ceiling: \$7,500,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505475&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: bkramer@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems (NCS)

Description: The program focuses on four aspects of neural and cognitive systems that are current targets of converging interdisciplinary interests. NCS projects must advance the foundations of one or more of these focus areas, as described further within the solicitation:

1. **Neuroengineering and Brain-Inspired Concepts and Designs**
2. **Individuality and Variation**
3. **Cognitive and Neural Processes in Realistic, Complex Environments**
4. **Data-Intensive Neuroscience and Cognitive Science**

Proposals must address both risk and reward: **high-risk, high-payoff approaches are expected**. Proposals must also be consistent with the missions of the participating directorates, while going beyond the scope of any NSF core program, or they will not be considered responsive to the solicitation.

Due Date: 4/17/2018

Award Ceiling: \$15,000,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505132&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: bplale@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Division of Information & Intelligent Systems

Program: National Robotics Initiative 2.0: Ubiquitous Collaborative Robots (NRI-2.0)

Description: The program supports four main research thrusts that are envisioned to advance the goal of ubiquitous co-robots: scalability, customizability, lowering barriers to entry, and societal impact. Topics addressing scalability include how robots can collaborate effectively with multiple humans or other robots; how robots can perceive, plan, act, and learn in uncertain, real-world environments, especially in a distributed fashion; and how to facilitate large-scale, safe, robust and reliable operation of robots in complex environments. Customizability includes how to enable co-robots to adapt to specific tasks, environments, or people, with minimal modification to hardware and software; how robots can personalize their interactions with people; and how robots can communicate naturally with humans, both verbally and non-verbally.

Due Date: 2/20/2018

Award Ceiling: \$1,500,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503641&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: resimmon@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Emerging Frontiers and Multidisciplinary Activities

Program: EMERGING FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (EFRI): Chromatin and Epigenetic Engineering (CEE) and Continuum, Compliant, and Configurable Soft Robotics Engineering (C3 SoRo) (EFRI-2018)

Description: The Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation (EFRI) program of the NSF Directorate for Engineering (ENG) serves a critical role in helping ENG focus on important emerging areas in a timely manner. This solicitation is a funding opportunity for interdisciplinary teams of researchers to embark on rapidly advancing frontiers of fundamental engineering research. For this solicitation, we will consider proposals that aim to investigate emerging frontiers in the following two research areas: Chromatin and Epigenetic Engineering (CEE)

Continuum, Compliant, and Configurable Soft Robotics Engineering (C3 SoRo)

Due Date: 2/23/2018

Award Ceiling: \$26,000,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13708&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: srastega@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Engineering Education and Centers

Program: PFE: Research Initiation in Engineering Formation (PFE: RIEF)

Description: The PFE: Research Initiation in Engineering Formation (PFE: RIEF) program has two goals: 1) Support research in the Professional Formation of Engineers (PFE), and 2) Increase the community of researchers conducting PFE research. PIs are expected to have little or no experience conducting social science research. PFE: RIEF

is not intended for established researchers in engineering education or other social science fields to initiate new projects.

Due Date: 2/22/2018

Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503603&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: julmarti@nsf.gov

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC)

Description: For the purposes of this solicitation, communities are defined as having geographically-delineated boundaries—such as towns, cities, counties, neighborhoods, community districts, rural areas, and tribal regions—consisting of various populations, with the structure and ability to engage in meaningful ways with proposed research activities. A “smart and connected community” is, in turn, a community that synergistically integrates intelligent technologies with the natural and built environments, including infrastructure, to improve the social, economic, and environmental well-being of those who live, work, or travel within it.

Due Date: 2/20/2018

Award Ceiling: See website

Website:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505364&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Contact: See website

Agency: IARPA

Program: Geopolitical Forecasting Challenge

Description: Can you create a method to forecast the future? The Geopolitical Forecasting (GF) Challenge invites solvers from around the world to develop innovative solutions and methods for integrating crowdsourced forecasts and other data into accurate, timely forecasts on worldwide issues. The challenge presents an opportunity for individuals and teams to earn prizes by creating methods that successfully demonstrate a forecast of a wide variety of geopolitical events, such as political elections, disease outbreaks, and macro-economic indicators.

Due Date: September 2018

Award Ceiling: See website

Website: <https://www.iarpa.gov/challenges/gfchallenge.html>

Contact: See website

Agency: USAID

Thailand USAID - Bangkok

Program: Legal Aid Support

Description: Through this Activity, USAID intends to promote the rule of law in Laos by ensuring more fair, consistent and transparent delivery of justice according to the law, inclusive of women, the poor, and traditionally underserved populations.

Due Date: 3/2/2018

Award Ceiling: \$3,900,000.00

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300173>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: USAID

Agency for International Development

Program: Syria Humanitarian Assistance Consortium

Description: Under this APS, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) seeks to fund one or more consortia of NGOs working in Syria to implement a program entitled "Syria Humanitarian Assistance Consortium." Applicant Eligibility Information for this award is described in Section C of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO).

Due Date: 9/30/2018

Award Ceiling: \$280,000,000.00

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300116>

Contact: Support@grants.gov

Agency: DOT

Program: RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program

Description: Under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act), Subtitle F of P.L. 112-141, the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund was established in the Treasury of the United States. Eighty percent of the civil penalties paid after July 6, 2012, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will be deposited into the Trust Fund and invested. The RESTORE Act created five components through which funds will be disbursed. Treasury is publishing multiple funding opportunity notices as part of the RESTORE Act. This announcement applies only to the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program. Trust Fund amounts are available to establish one or more Centers of Excellence through competitive subawards to nongovernmental entities, including institutions of higher education. Funds may be used by those Centers of Excellence to conduct research only on the Gulf Coast region in one or more of the following disciplines: 1. Coastal and deltaic sustainability, restoration and protection, including solutions and technology that allow citizens to live in a safe and sustainable manner in a coastal delta in the Gulf Coast Region; 2. Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Gulf Coast Region; 3. Offshore energy development, including research and technology to improve the sustainable and safe development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico; 4. Sustainable and resilient growth, economic and commercial development in the Gulf Coast Region; and 5. Comprehensive observation, monitoring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico.

Due Date: 6/29/2018

Award Ceiling: \$6,703,019

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

Contact: Support@grants.gov