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FEATURED NEWS

From the Executive Director

Happy New Year! I am pleased with all that we were able to accomplish over the last year as we

worked to protect and promote social and behavioral science research to policy makers and the public. But heading into this new chapter in Washington, it is important that we do not rest on our laurels. Given all of the unknowns about the year ahead and what the new political context might mean for social science research, now is the time for anyone who cares about our research to engage.

COSSA has been busy organizing several activities and events for this year aimed at showcasing the value our sciences bring to issues of interest to decision makers across the government. A number of these activities are highlighted below, including the [2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day](#) on March 29-30 and COSSA's [Ten Recommendations for the 45th President of the United States](#). Watch for additional activities throughout the year.

It's time to get to work-- I look forward to engaging with you as we continue our efforts on behalf of social and behavioral science research. And as always, thank you for your support of COSSA!



Wendy A. Naus
COSSA Executive Director

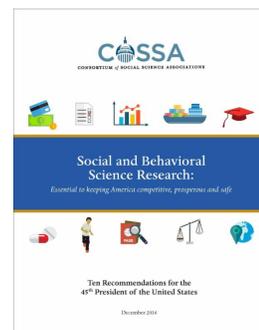
COSSA IN ACTION

Early Bird Registration Open for 2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day

Registration is now open for the [2017 COSSA Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day](#), scheduled for **March 29-30 in Washington, DC**. This event (formerly the COSSA Annual Meeting) brings together COSSA members and other stakeholders for a day of discussion about federal policy impacting our science followed by the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. Come be part of the action. **Register before January 15 to receive the early bird rate.** Information on discounted student rates and confirmed speakers will be released in the coming weeks. [Register today!](#)

COSSA Issues Recommendations to the Incoming Trump Administration

Before the holiday break, COSSA transmitted a report to the Trump transition team, [Social and Behavioral Science Research: Ten Recommendations for the 45th President of the United States](#). The report outlines a number of steps the next Administration can take to support the U.S. research enterprise and use social science research in support of evidence-based policy making. This document can also be helpful in outreach to policy makers in Congress as well. The document is available on the COSSA website at <http://www.cossa.org/press-publications/2017-transition-recommendations/>.



COSSA Releases State Funding Fact Sheets for 2017

COSSA has released the 2017 edition of its state funding fact sheets with a new look. These one-pagers showcase the amount of federal social science research funding that goes to each state, and includes information on the leading recipient institutions and sources of funding. The fact sheets are helpful for articulating to policy makers the local economic impact of social science



CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

A Profile of the 115th Congress

The 115th Congress was officially sworn in on January 3. The new Congress includes a freshman class of 53 Representatives (26 Republicans and 27 Democrats) and 6 Senators (1 Republican and 5 Democrats). Republicans maintained majorities in both chambers following the November elections, but with smaller margins than in the 114th Congress. The party alignment in the House currently stands at 241 Republicans and 194 Democrats, compared to the Republican majority of 249 in the 114th Congress. The party alignment in the Senate stands at 52 Republicans and 48 Democrats (the two Senate Independents caucus with the Democrats), compared to the Republican majority of 54 seats in the 114th Congress.

While both chambers of Congress are still overwhelmingly white (339 in the House and 90 in the Senate) and male (348 in the House and 79 in the Senate), the 115th Congress will be the most diverse in history. It will also be one of the most educated Congresses in history with 234 members of the House and 57 members of the Senate holding advanced degrees. A large majority in both chambers have held different public offices before their election to Congress (191 in the House, 44 in the Senate), were involved in business (178 in the House, 29 in the Senate), or practiced law (156 in the House, 50 in the Senate). Notably, there are 5 members of the House who self-identified as having occupations in science as well as 77 members of the House and 20 members of the Senate who self-identified as having occupations in education before their election to Congress.

House and Senate Committees Take Shape

Several committee chairs and ranking members have been announced in recent weeks, including for committees and subcommittees overseeing funding and policy issues important to social and behavioral science research. These appointments will have important impacts on the priorities and activities of the committees over the next year. [Read on for](#) more details.

Innovation Legislation Signed into Law

As [previously reported](#), lawmakers worked in the final weeks of 2016 to find common ground on research innovation legislation, known as the [American Innovation and Competitiveness Act](#) (S. 3084), before adjourning for the year. The bill passed the Senate in early December, but did not get a House vote before lawmakers headed home for the holidays. However, given that the House had not yet officially adjourned for the year, the bill was quietly passed on December 16 in pro forma session along with a number of other bills under suspension of the rules. President Obama signed the bill into law on January 6, 2017.

The resulting law includes variety of science policy provisions covering topics such as the National Science Foundation's merit review process, STEM education, and administrative burden, among others. In general, it is a positive bill for research, especially compared to earlier versions considered in the House. It is important to note, however, that while the original purpose of earlier legislation in the House and Senate was to authorize funding for NSF for the

years ahead, agreement could not be reached on overall levels and therefore negotiators elected to keep numbers out the bill. That means that NSF's authorization is still expired (since 2013) and the House Science, Space and Technology Committee (under the leadership of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX)) may very well introduce another NSF authorization bill in the new Congress. COSSA will continue to follow such efforts.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Congressman Mick Mulvaney Nominated for OMB Director

On December 16, President-elect Donald Trump nominated Congressman Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) to serve as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Trump Administration. Mulvaney made a name for himself during his three terms in the House as an outspoken opponent of government spending.

OMB serves as the implementation and enforcement arm of Presidential policy through budget development, oversight of agency performance, legislative coordination, and oversight of executive orders. If confirmed by the Senate, Mulvaney will have broad responsibilities implementing President-elect Trump's agenda, including a central role in health care and tax policy changes, as well as the repeal of government regulations.

Census Bureau Establishes 2020 Advisory Committee, Calls for Nominations

The Census Bureau [announced](#) the establishment of a [Census Bureau 2020 Advisory Committee](#), which will provide expertise and advice to Bureau leadership on matters related to the planning and implementation of the 2020 decennial census. The Bureau is seeking nominations to fill the 25-member Committee, particularly candidates with expertise related to "diverse populations; national, state, local and tribal interest; hard-to-count populations; research; community-based organizations; academia; business interests; marketing and media industries; and professional associations." More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#). Nominations must be submitted by January 19, 2017.

National Library of Medicine Seeks Input into Strategic Planning Process

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input into its strategic planning process and has issued a *Request for Information (RFI): Strategic Plan for the National Library of Medicine, NIH* ([NOT-LM-7-002](#)). Priorities and future direction under consideration by the Institute revolve around four themes: (1) advancing data science, open science, and biomedical informatics; (2) advancing biomedical discovery and translational science; (3) supporting the public's health: clinical systems, public health systems and services, and personal health; and (4) building collections to support discovery and health in the 21st century. Specifically, NLM is inviting input "on the most audacious goals and the most compelling questions that could potentially drive innovation in research and information systems for the next decade and beyond." **The deadline for responding to the RFI has been extended to January 23, 2017.** To respond and/or for more information see the [notice](#).

Federal Agencies Clarify Programmatic Goals and Specific Interests for Multiscale Modeling Initiative

In December 2016, seven federal agencies--National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Army Research Office (ARO), Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Office of Naval Research (ONR)--released a notice ([NOT-EB-16-011](#)) clarifying the

programmatic goals and specific interests of the interagency funding opportunity announcement *Predictive Multiscale Models for Biomedical, Biological, Behavioral, Environmental and Clinical Research* ([PAR-15-085](#)). See the [notice](#) for full details.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

COSSA Remembers Stephen Fienberg

COSSA was saddened to learn of the death of Stephen E. Fienberg, University Professor of Statistics and Social Science at Carnegie Mellon University, member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a champion of federal statistics. More about Fienberg's life and legacy can be found in his [Carnegie Mellon News obituary](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ED/OPE: [Fulbright-Hays--Group Projects Abroad Program, FY 2017](#)
 - NIJ: Research on Bias Crimes ([NIJ-2017-11184](#))
 - NIH: [Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.](#)
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COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

National Communication Association Announces Next Executive Director

The [National Communication Association](#) (NCA), a COSSA [Governing Member](#), has [announced](#) the appointment of [Dr. Paaige K. Turner](#) as its next Executive Director. Turner is currently Associate Dean and Professor in the School of Communications at Webster University in St. Louis. She will begin her tenure at NCA on April 1.

AERA Extends Deadline for Congressional Fellowships

The [American Educational Research Association](#) (AERA), a COSSA [Governing Member](#), has extended the deadline for the 2017-2018 [Congressional Fellowship Program](#). Applications are due January 17, 2017 for fellowships that run from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. The fellowship aims to "use education research skills to inform public policy in a Congressional office in Washington, D.C." Interested candidates can apply [here](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [AERA Centennial Lecture: Bridget Terry Long - Supporting College Student Access and Success](#), January 11, 2017, Los Angeles, CA
- [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Meeting](#), January 11-15, 2017, San Francisco, CA
- [Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#), January 12-14, 2017, New Orleans, LA
- [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), January 19-21, 2017, San Antonio, TX
- [AERA Centennial Lecture: Deborah Lowe Vandell - The Opportunities and Challenges of Early Child Care and Education](#), February 22, 2017, Oklahoma City, OK
- [American Psychosomatic Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#), March 15-18, 2017, Seville, Spain
- [Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference](#), March 16-19, 2017, Toronto, Canada
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), March 21-25, 2017, Kansas City, MO

- [COSSA 2017 Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day](#) March 29-30, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting](#), March 29-April 1, 2017, San Diego, CA

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [events page](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@coffa.org.

REGISTER NOW!

COSSA's 2017 [Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day](#) will take place March 29-30, 2017 in Washington, DC.

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
 American Association for Public Opinion Research
 American Economic Association
 American Educational Research Association
 American Political Science Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Society of Criminology
 American Sociological Association
 American Statistical Association
 Association of American Law Schools
 Law and Society Association
 Linguistic Society of America
 Midwest Political Science Association
 National Communication Association
 Population Association of America
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology
 Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
 American Association of Geographers
 American Evaluation Association
 American Historical Association
 American Psychosomatic Society
 Association for Asian Studies
 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
 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
 North American Regional Science Council
 Rural Sociological Society
 Social Science History Association
 Society for Research on Adolescence
 Society for Social Work and Research
 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
 Society of Behavioral Medicine

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Clark University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 Fielding Graduate University
 George Mason University
 George Washington University, The
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
 Howard University
 Indiana University
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
 Johns Hopkins University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Michigan State University
 New York University
 North Carolina State University
 Northwestern University
 Ohio State University, The
 Pennsylvania State University
 Princeton University
 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
 Stanford University
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 University of California, Berkeley
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 University of Chicago
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 University of Illinois
 University of Iowa
 University of Maryland
 University of Michigan
 University of Minnesota
 University of Missouri
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 University of Oklahoma

Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

Centers and Institutes

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

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.

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