



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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In This Issue

FEATURED NEWS

[Congress Passes Two-Week Stopgap Funding Bill, Returns to Debate Spending and Taxes](#)

COSSA IN ACTION

[Linguist Evan Bradley Answers "Why Social Science?"](#)

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

[House Education and Workforce Committee Introduces Reauthorization of Higher Education Act; Democrats Introduce Competing Title VI Proposal](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

[Trump Nominates Mark Schneider to Direct the Institute of Education Sciences](#)

[NSF Seeking New Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources Directorate](#)

[BLS Technical Advisory Committee Accepting Nominations](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

[APA Seeking Congressional and Executive Branch Fellowship Applications](#)

[AERA Offering Congressional Fellowship Opportunity](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: [Update Returns January 9](#)

FEATURED NEWS

Congress Passes Two-Week Stopgap Funding Bill, Returns to Debate Spending and Taxes

Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) on the evening of December 7 to continue federal appropriations through December 22, averting a partial government shutdown. The extension of fiscal year (FY) 2017 funding levels through this CR will give Congress more time to finalize FY 2018 spending and come to agreement on raising spending caps set in place by the *Budget Control Act*. While the House of Representatives has finished work on all twelve of its spending bills, the Senate has yet to vote on any, referencing a lack of agreement on overall spending levels.

In addition to finalizing spending for the current fiscal year, House and Senate Republicans continue to negotiate differences on their proposed tax overhaul. Debate on taxes and annual appropriations will likely carry them to, if not past, their scheduled Christmas recess. Read more

COSSA IN ACTION

Linguist Evan Bradley Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's guest post comes from linguist Evan Bradley, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Penn State Brandywine, who writes about how linguistics research can enhance our understanding of how society functions and ways to improve it. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

House Education and Workforce Committee Introduces Reauthorization of Higher Education Act; Democrats Introduce Competing Title VI Proposal

On December 1, House Education and Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) introduced the [Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform \(PROSPER\) Act](#), a bill to reauthorize the *Higher Education Act* (HEA). The HEA authorizes federal aid programs that support institutions of higher education and postsecondary students. The bill proposes large changes to graduate student loan programs, rolling back regulations on for-profit colleges, and changing the process for applying for federal student aid. Additionally, the bill proposes the elimination of several Title VI-International Education programs and reauthorizes the remaining programs below current levels.

Congress last authorized the *Higher Education Act* in 2008 and the Senate committee of jurisdiction-the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions-will likely introduce its own bill in the coming year. A summary of the bill, prepared by the American Council on Education, can be found [here](#). The Coalition for International Education, of which COSSA is a member, sent a [letter](#) to leadership of the House Education and Workforce Committee sharing its concerns with the *PROSPER Act*.

Relatedly, Representatives David Price (D-NC) and Susan Davis (D-CA) introduced a bill on November 30 that would reauthorize only Title VI of the *Higher Education Act*. Their bill, known as the [Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act](#), would expand, streamline, and increase funding for existing foreign language and area studies programs and is a stark contrast to the provisions included in the PROSPER Act.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Trump Nominates Mark Schneider to Direct the Institute of Education Sciences

Mark Schneider, visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and Vice President at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), has been [nominated](#) to lead the [Institute of Education Sciences](#) (IES). IES is the statistics, research, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education and includes the National Center for Education Evaluation and

Regional Assistance, the National Center for Education Research, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the National Center for Special Education Research. Prior to joining the AIR, Schneider served as Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics from 2005 to 2008 and as a professor of political science at SUNY Stony Brook. Schneider's nomination next goes to the Senate for a confirmation hearing and vote, although the hearing has not yet been scheduled.

NSF Seeking New Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources Directorate

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has initiated a national search for Assistant Director for the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate. Dr. Jim Lewis has served as Acting Assistant Director since January of 2016. The Assistant Director for EHR will oversee the directorate, which includes the Division of Graduate Education, the Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings, the Division of Undergraduate Education, and the Division on Human Resource Development.

The search committee is seeking candidates with outstanding leadership capabilities; a deep sense of scholarship; and a grasp of the issues facing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research and education. Details and contact information for the search committee can be found [here](#).

BLS Technical Advisory Committee Accepting Nominations

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [Technical Advisory Committee](#) is accepting nominations to fill five upcoming vacancies. The Committee advises the Bureau on technical aspects of data collection and the formulation of economic measures and makes recommendations on areas of research. BLS is interested in candidates who have a strong familiarity with BLS data and economic statistics. Nominations should be submitted by January 5, 2018. More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

APA Seeking Congressional and Executive Branch Fellowship Applications

The American Psychological Association (APA), a COSSA governing member, is accepting applications for its 2018-2019 Congressional and Executive Branch Fellowships. The [APA Congressional Fellowship Program](#) provides two psychologists each year with the opportunity to spend a year working as special legislative assistants in a Senate or House office. The [APA Executive Branch Fellowship Program](#) gives psychologists the opportunity to spend a year working within a federal agency working on issues related to science policy and research administration. More information about both programs is available on the [APA website](#). Applications for both fellowships are due by January 5, 2018.

AERA Offering Congressional Fellowship Opportunity

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), a COSSA governing members, is inviting education researchers to apply for its 2018 [Congressional Fellowship Program](#). The program offers doctoral scientist from any field of education research the opportunity to spend as year as a resident scholar within a Congressional office. More information is available on the [AERA website](#). Applications are due by December 15, 2017.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Friends of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Happy Hour](#), December 13, 2017, Washington, DC
- [The Lunch @ DC: Trust, Engagement, and Governance: Democracy from the Bottom-Up](#), December 14, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting](#), January 3-6, 2018, San Diego, CA
- [Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#), January 4-7, 2018, New Orleans, LA
- [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), January 4-7, 2018, Salt Lake City, UT
- [American Historical Association Annual Meeting](#), January 4-7, 2018, Washington, DC
- [American Economic Association Annual Meeting](#), January 5-7, 2018, Philadelphia, PA
- [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Meeting](#), January 10-14, 2018, Washington, DC
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), February 13-17, 2018, New Orleans, LA

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.

Editor's Note

This is the last issue of COSSA Washington Update of the year. We will resume our ongoing coverage of policy developments affecting the social and behavioral sciences on January 9. The COSSA staff wishes all of our readers a happy and healthy holiday season. See you in 2018!

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
 African Studies Association
 American Association of Geographers
 American Council of Learned Societies
 American Evaluation Association
 American Historical Association
 American Psychosomatic Society
 Association for Asian Studies
 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 Fielding Graduate University
 Florida State 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
 Texas A&M University
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Irvine

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
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
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
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

COSSA

Executive Director: Wendy A. Naus

Assistant Director for Public Affairs: Julia Milton

Government Relations Associate: Camille Hosman

newsletter@coffa.org

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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