



CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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COSSA to Present 2018 Distinguished Service Award to Rep. Dan Lipinski, NIH's Bill Riley

Washington, D.C. — The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) has named U.S. Representative Daniel Lipinski (D-IL) and Dr. William (Bill) Riley, Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as the recipients of its 2018 Distinguished Service Award. The [COSSA Distinguished Service Award](#) recognizes leaders who have gone above and beyond to promote, protect, and advance the social and behavioral science research enterprise. Awardees are chosen by the COSSA Board of Directors, which represents [COSSA's governing member associations](#).

“The recipients of the 2018 COSSA Distinguished Service Award represent the type of leadership across the legislative and executive branches of government the social and behavioral sciences need to flourish and continue to produce the type of findings that have already improved the lives of countless Americans,” said COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus. “Representative Lipinski is one of social science’s most stalwart champions in Congress and has long been a vocal advocate for the many benefits research in the social and behavioral sciences have generated. Dr. Riley’s leadership of OBSSR has helped ensure that the social and behavioral sciences are thriving at NIH and continue to generate vital insights into the ways that behavioral and social factors shape our health.”

Lipinski, who serves on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and as Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Research and holds a Ph.D. in political science, has been a strong advocate for scientific research at all levels and across all fields of study. He has worked productively with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact legislation that strengthens the U.S. scientific enterprise and has helped raise the profile of the social and behavioral sciences.

A 13-year veteran of NIH, Riley has worked at Institutes and Centers across the agency, including the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), before his appointment to lead the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research in 2015. Throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to amplify the importance of social and behavioral science across the NIH and in biomedical research more generally. As OBSSR Director, Riley has cultivated strong relationships between the Office and NIH stakeholders through open, ongoing engagement with the social and behavioral science community.

Both [Riley](#) and [Lipinski](#) are contributors to COSSA’s ongoing [Why Social Science?](#) blog series, which seeks to bring stories about the contributions and value of the social and behavioral science to public audiences.

The award will be officially presented at a [reception](#) on April 30, 2018 as part of COSSA’s [2018 Science Policy Conference](#). More information about the award is available on [COSSA's website](#).

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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. 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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