



WASHINGTON UPDATE

September 29, 2020 Volume 39, Issue 19

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Featured News

Administration Expands Ban on “Promotion” of Structural Racism/Sexism to Contractors, Grantees

As part of the Administration’s ongoing effort to crack down on perceived “political correctness” in government, President Trump issued an [executive order](#) on September 22 to “combat offensive and anti-American race and sex stereotyping and scapegoating.” This order expands on a recent memorandum from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that required federal agencies to cease funding for training that addresses critical race theory and white privilege (see [previous coverage](#)). The executive order applies this prohibition to federal contractors and grant recipients. In addition, it expands the original OMB memo beyond employee training to require that federal agencies certify that federal grantees will not use federal funds to “promote the concepts” that:

“(a) one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; (b) an individual, by virtue of

his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously; (c) an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex; (d) members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex; (e) an individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex; (f) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex; (g) any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex; or (h) meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular race to oppress another race.”

This raises the concerns that, depending on how the language is interpreted by federal agency leadership, the prohibition could apply to federal social science research grants that address structural racism and sexism. The order gives agency heads 60 days to compile a list of grant programs that violate this prohibition. We will continue to follow the implementation of this order closely and report on developments affecting social scientists. COSSA recently joined a [statement](#) led by the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and the National Academy of Education in support of anti-racist education.

New from COSSA

COSSA to Co-Host Symposium on “Responding to COVID-19: Emerging Insights from SBE Sciences”

COSSA is collaborating with the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences; the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences; and SAGE Publishing to host a seminar bringing together policymakers and social science researchers working on pressing COVID-19 issues. The virtual event, [“Responding to COVID-19: Emerging Insights from SBE Sciences”](#) will take place on Friday, October 9 from 12:45-5:00 pm Eastern Time and will feature 3 public sessions highlighting emerging findings from policy-relevant social science research. More information on speakers and registration is available on the [event website](#).

October COSSA Headlines to Feature Deep Dive on Presidential Election Polling

COSSA members are encouraged to sign up for the monthly Headlines webchat on Thursday, October 8 at 2:00 pm Eastern Time. The COSSA team will break down the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month, followed by a deep dive discussion on presidential election polling with Aimee Vella Ripley of Harris Insights & Analytics. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webchat [here](#).



“Why Social Science?” Focuses on Misinformation and Online Extremism



The latest *Why Social Science?* guest post comes from the developers of a series of free online teaching modules on “Confronting Digital Extremism,” who write about how social science can help us arm ourselves with the necessary skills to combat misinformation and online extremism. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

Congressional News

Congress Likely Averts Government Shutdown, CR through December 11

On September 22, the House of Representatives struck a deal to keep the government operating into the new fiscal year that begins on October 1. The Senate is expected to pass the measure this week, sending it to the President before fiscal year (FY) 2020 ends on September 30. None of the twelve appropriations bills for FY 2021 have been enacted to date, although as previously reported, the House passed its versions back in July (see [COSSA's coverage](#)).

Congressional leaders are also attempting a last-ditch effort this week to find compromise on a COVID-19 relief package. House Democrats released a slimmed-down [version](#) of its *Heroes Act* to restart discussions; however, there remains little hope that agreement will be made before lawmakers leave for the campaign trail in the coming days.

Finally, 54 Members of the House of Representatives sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy last week urging \$3 billion in emergency relief for the National Science Foundation in the next COVID-19 package. The revised *Heroes Act* noted earlier does not currently include this funding.

Executive Branch News

ICE Proposes Major New Restrictions to International Student Visas

On September 25, the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released a [proposed rule](#) fixing the initial visa term for all international students, exchange visitors, and foreign media representatives to four years, among other restrictions. Furthermore, the proposal would restrict the initial visa term to two years for individuals born in countries designated as state-sponsors of terrorism and citizens of countries with student and exchange visitor overstay rates over 10 percent. Applications to extend the duration of the visa would be possible "if the additional time needed is due to a compelling academic reason, documented medical illness or medical condition, or circumstance that was beyond the student's control." Other restrictions included in the proposal are capping the number of times an international student can change majors or degree levels while on a visa, limiting allowed English language training to two years over the student's lifetime, and giving ICE the discretion to approve or deny stay applications. Current international student visas would not be affected.

The rule proposal has been [criticized](#) by many in the higher education community due to concerns it would unnecessarily bar international students from studying in the U.S., some noting that academic programs frequently take longer than the proposed maximum initial visa term of four years. However, since the rule finalization process may not be completed before January 20, 2021, a change in the Presidential administration could prevent any changes from occurring.

Stakeholder comments on the proposal will be accepted through October 26, 2020. The proposal can be read in full in the [Federal Register](#).

With Days Left, Census Deadline Still in Flux

A federal judge issued an order that would prohibit the Census Bureau with ending its field enumerations efforts on September 30, as it had announced (see COSSA's [previous coverage](#)). The [preliminary injunction](#), issued on September 24 as part of a lawsuit brought by a group of civil rights organizations, would require the 2020 Census to continue its counting operations into October as it had originally planned. The Department of Commerce filed an appeal to this injunction and separately [announced](#) a "target date" of October 5 for ending self-response and field enumeration activities. It is unclear how this new end date is in compliance with the injunction. Meanwhile, Congress has yet to act on adjusting the statutory deadlines for apportionment and redistricting counts. COSSA will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves.

NSF Seeking Comments on STEM Education Strategic Plan

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has [announced](#) it is accepting stakeholder comments on an upcoming Federal STEM Education Strategic Plan. This strategic plan, which is released roughly every five years, serves as a guide for developing STEM education programs at federal agencies as well as identifying areas for future improvement. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is a stated focus in this round of the Federal STEM Education Strategic Plan.

NSF is seeking comments on the following issues:

- Future opportunities in STEM education;
- Developing STEM education digital resources;
- Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM;
- Engaging students where disciplines converge;
- Developing and enriching strategic partnerships;
- Building computational literacy; and
- Community use and implementation of the Federal STEM Education Strategic Plan.

Comments will be accepted through October 19, 2020. More information is available in the [Federal Register](#).

CIA Establishes First-Ever Federal Laboratory

On September 21, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) [announced](#) the establishment of [CIA Labs](#), a new research and development office focused on science and technology issues affecting national intelligence, marking the establishment of the CIA's first ever federal laboratory.

Some of the stated priorities of the laboratory include:

- advanced materials and manufacturing;
- artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics;
- bioscience and biotechnology;
- distributed ledger/blockchain-enabled technologies;
- virtual and augmented reality;
- high performance and quantum computing;
- future wireless and telecommunications technologies; and
- robotic, autonomous, and human interface systems.

While it appears CIA Labs will be primarily performing in-house research, the CIA's announcement alludes to future opportunities for internships and externships, as well as a call for partnerships between the labs, research organizations and academia. Submissions for partnership ideas and more information can be found on the [CIA website](#).

Science Community News

National Academies Leaders Raise Concern about Politicization of Science

On September 24, the presidents of the National Academy of Sciences ([NAS](#)) and the National Academy of Medicine ([NAM](#)) issued a [joint statement](#) expressing concern about reported political interference in science related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement by Dr. Marcia McNutt, NAS, and Dr. Victor Dzau, NAM, reads:

“As advisers to the nation on all matters of science, medicine, and public health, we are compelled to underscore the value of science-based decision-making at all levels of government. Our nation is at a critical time in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic with important decisions ahead of us, especially concerning the efficacy and safety of vaccines. Policymaking must be informed by the best available evidence without it being distorted, concealed, or otherwise deliberately miscommunicated. We find ongoing reports and incidents of the politicization of science, particularly the overriding of evidence and advice from public health officials and derision of government scientists, to be alarming. It undermines the

credibility of public health agencies and the public's confidence in them when we need it most. Ending the pandemic will require decision-making that is not only based on science but also sufficiently transparent to ensure public trust in, and adherence to, sound public-health instructions. Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all."

You can follow COSSA's COVID-19 coverage and access several resources at www.cossa.org/covid-19.

NASEM Holds Webinar on Earning Trust in the Age of Pandemic

On September 16, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) held a [webinar](#) on understanding how to build and trust in the scientific community and the development in a potential COVID-19 vaccine. The webinar featured a panel discussion and Q&A session featuring Professor of the History of Science and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University Evelyn Hammonds, Professor of Comparative Media Studies and Writing and Director of the Graduate Program in Science Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seth Mnookin, and Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security Monica Schoch-Spana. The Webinar also included remarks from President of the National Academy of Medicine Victor Dzau, President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAA&S) David Oxtoby, and Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Francis Collins.

The panel covered a variety of issues concerning public confidence in science including the erosion of confidence in scientific institutions, historical instances of racism and abuse in medicine against Black Americans, anti-vaccine movements, and extreme polarization. The panel also discussed potential methods to counteract help rebuild public confidence in science including improved communication strategies concerning anti-vaccine movements, engagement strategies with at-risk populations, and NIH's new Community Engagement Alliance against COVID-19 Disparities (CEAL) initiative.

A full recording of the webinar is available on the [NASEM website](#).

COSSA Member Spotlight

COSSA Welcomes the Society for Personality Assessment

COSSA is pleased to welcome the [Society for Personality Assessment](#) (SPA) as its newest member. SPA is the world's largest organization "dedicated to the development of methods of personality assessment, the advancement of research on their effectiveness, the exchange of ideas about the theory and practice of assessment, and the promotion of the applied practice of personality assessment." COSSA's full membership list is available [here](#). Information on how to join can be found on the [COSSA website](#).



Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 9/24/2020: [AERA & NAE Sign-On Statement in Support of Anti-Racist Education](#)

New COVID-19 Resources

- 9/24/2020: [NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed by Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- AAPSS: [2021 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize in Social Science and Public Policy](#) (Closes: October 16, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Building Data Capacity for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research: An Agenda for 2021 to 2030](#) (Closes: October 7, 2020)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Reducing Racial Inequalities in the Criminal-Justice System](#) (Closes: October 2, 2020)
- NSF/NSB: [Vannevar Bush Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)
- NSF/NSB: [Public Service Award](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)

New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- NIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Competitive and Administrative Supplements for Community Interventions to Reduce the Impact of COVID-19 on Health Disparity and Other Vulnerable Populations](#) (Closes: December 30, 2020)
- NSF: [Dynamic Languages Infrastructure – Documenting Endangered Languages \(DLI-DEL\) Data, Infrastructure, and Computing Methods](#) (Closes: November 18, 2020)
- NSF: [Harnessing the Data Revolution: Coordination Hub \(HDR Central\)](#) (Closes: November 12, 2020)
- NIH/NHLBI: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) (Closes: October 6, 2020)
- NIH: [NIH Director's Emergency Transformative Research Awards \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: September 30, 2020)

[More funding opportunities.](#)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NIH/NICHHD: [Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions](#) (Closes: October 30, 2020)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Notice of Request for Information on STEM Education](#) (Closes: October 19, 2020)
- DOJ/BJS: [Proposed Collection Comments Requested; Reinstatement, With Change, of a Previously Approved Collection: National Survey of Prosecutors \(NSP\)](#) (Closes: October 13, 2020)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NSF/SBE: [Frequently Asked Questions about SBE's Science of Science Programs](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NASEM: [Program Officer - Division on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education](#)
- **NEW:** [Call for Speakers - Government Advances in Statistical Programming \(GASP\) 2020](#)

Upcoming Events

- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Sessions I & II](#), October 1, 2020, 1:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session III](#), October 8, 2020, 1:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [NASEM Webinar - Responding to COVID-19: Emerging Insights from SBE Sciences](#), October 9, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), October 8-11, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | October](#), October 8, 2020, 2:00pm

- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session IV](#), October 15, 2020, 1:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [National Academy of Medicine Annual Meeting](#), October 19, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Session V](#), October 22, 2020, 1:00pm
- **VIRTUAL:** [Evaluation 2020](#), October 26-31, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [NIH Fall Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration](#), October 27-30, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Minerva Meeting and the Next National Defense Strategy Sessions VI & VII](#), October 29, 2020, 1:00pm
- **CANCELLED:** [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), October 29-31, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [CCAS Annual Meeting](#), November 4-7, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Government Advances in Statistical Programming \(GASP\) 2020](#), November 6, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [APPAM Annual Fall Research Conference](#), November 11-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference](#), November 11-13, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting](#), November 11-15, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), November 12-15, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | November](#), November 12, 2020, 2:00 pm
- **CANCELLED:** [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), November 17-22, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), November 18-21, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), November 19-22, 2020
- **VIRTUAL:** [African Studies Association Annual Meeting](#), November 19-21, 2020
- **TBD:** [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention](#), November 19-22, 2020
- **CANCELLED:** [Social Science History Association Annual Conference](#)

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.

COSSA Members

Governing Associations

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

Membership Organizations

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 Duke University
 George Mason University
 Georgetown University
 Harvard University
 Indiana University
 Johns Hopkins University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Michigan State University
 North Carolina State University
 Northwestern University
 Ohio State University, The
 Pennsylvania State University
 Princeton University
 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

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 Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of American Law Schools
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Personality Assessment
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

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University of Pennsylvania
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University of Virginia
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
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

About COSSA

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

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ISSN 0749-4394



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