**Featured News**

**NSF Seeks Candidates for SBE Leadership Positions**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has initiated a national search for its next **Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate**. Dr. Arthur Lupia has served in this position since 2018. The Assistant Director for SBE oversees the directorate, which includes the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences, the Division of Social and Economic Sciences, the SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities, and the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

The search committee will be led by Robert Groves, Executive Vice President and Provost at Georgetown University, and is seeking candidates with outstanding leadership capabilities; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the social, behavioral, and economic science communities, especially in the areas of education, innovation, and fundamental research. Details and contact information for the search committee can be found [here](#). Nominations will be accepted through September 13, 2021.

In addition, two of SBE’s divisions are accepting applications for Division Director roles. NSF is seeking candidates for the **Director of the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)** within SBE. The BCS Director is responsible for providing leadership and
New from COSSA

“Why Social Science” Can Help Plan for Returning to In-Person Work

The latest Why Social Science? post comes from Sunita Sah, of the University of Cambridge, who writes about how understanding anxiety and decision-making can help organizations plan for returning to the office while minimizing their employees' anxiety. Read it here and subscribe.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: NSF Creates New Education and Human Resources Directorate (June 1, 1990)

In celebration of COSSA's 40th anniversary, we are diving into the decades of Washington Update archives to share articles from years past that resonate with today's news.

Throughout his tenure as director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), Erich Bloch has touted "education and human resources" as a major justification for increasing NSF funding. Now, with two months to go in office, Bloch has decided to reorganize the foundation's science and engineering education efforts by creating a new Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR). The new directorate will be headed by current NSF Senior Science Advisor Luther Williams.

The old Science and Engineering Education Directorate (SEE) and its assistant director, Bassam Shakashiri, are gone. Shakashiri will join the NSF Director's office.

The new EHR will include all the programs of the SEE Directorate as well as the NSF programs to promote science and engineering opportunities for women and minorities and persons with disabilities, which are currently housed in the Scientific, Technological, and International Affairs Directorate (STIA). It will also have responsibility for coordinating undergraduate education efforts managed currently by the disciplinary research programs.

Pushed by Congress for years to consolidate and better coordinate NSF's endeavors in science education, Bloch is also responding to some of the recommendations made in an Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) report, "Science Education: From Grade School to Grad School." The OTA report is often cited by NSF Senate appropriations chair Barbara Mikulski (D-MD).
The National Science Board approved the reorganization at its May meeting. The House Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee will use an already scheduled hearing on June 7th to examine these changes in detail.

Read more from this issue.

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**Congressional News**

**House Passes Funding Bills for Labor-HHS-Education, Agriculture**

On July 29, the House of Representatives passed a six-bill package of spending legislation for the next fiscal year (FY), FY 2022. The package (H.R. 4502) included both the Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education and Agriculture appropriations bills (see COSSA's analysis). As it breaks for August recess, the House has passed nine of its 13 annual spending bills. Among the bills left to pass are the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill (which funds the National Science Foundation) and the Department of Defense appropriations bill. The Senate Appropriations Committee, meanwhile, has started marking up its bills this week. However, they are not expected to get to the bills of most interest to the research community before leaving for August recess next week. COSSA will continue to report on developments in the FY 2022 appropriations process as they occur.

**New House Social Determinants of Health Caucus Seeks Stakeholder Input**

A newly formed Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus is seeking the public’s input on challenges and opportunities related to social determinants of health. The bipartisan caucus, which held a launch event on July 21, is co-chaired by Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Tom Cole (R-OK), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), and Markwayne Mullin (R-OK). The caucus “will explore opportunities to improve the impact of services delivered to address social determinants with the support of federal funding” and “work to amplify evidence-based approaches to holistic well-being.” The request for information asks stakeholders to respond to a list of questions relating to how to improve federal programs to better address the social determinants of health and areas where Congressional action is necessary. Responses are being accepted through September 21.

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**Executive Branch News**

**NIH Releases 2021-2025 Strategic Plan**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released its agency-wide Strategic Plan for fiscal years (FY) 2021-2025, a roadmap outlining key objectives and themes for the agency for the next five years. The plan organizes its strategy into three major objectives for the agency:

- Advancing Biomedical and Behavioral Sciences;
- Developing, Maintaining, and Renewing Scientific Research Capacity; and
- Exemplifying and Promoting the Highest Level of Scientific Integrity, Public Accountability, and Social Responsibility in the Conduct of Science.

The Strategic Plan also outlines five cross-cutting themes that run through each of the three major objectives and all aspects of the agency’s strategy:

- Improving Minority Health and Reducing Health Disparities
- Enhancing Women’s Health
Notably, the role of the social and behavioral sciences in NIH biomedical research are highlighted throughout the Strategic Plan, with the report noting “for the purposes of this Strategic Plan, the term biomedical is used broadly to include biological, behavioral, and social scientific perspectives.” Other topics in which the social and behavioral sciences are highlighted include the social determinants of health, maternal health, minority health and health disparities, and strengthening the research workforce. More information about the Strategic Plan is available on the NIH website.

Biden Nominates ARS Administrator to lead USDA Research

The Biden Administration has announced the nomination of Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young to serve as the Department of Agriculture’s Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE). The REE Under Secretary oversees the Department’s science and research activities, including the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Dr. Jacobs-Young is currently the Administrator of another REE agency, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and has also been serving as Acting REE Under Secretary. A Senate confirmation hearing has not yet been scheduled.

EHR Director to Take on NSF COO Role

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has named Dr. Karen Marrongelle as its next Chief Operating Office (COO) effective August 2, succeeding F. Fleming Crim, who has served in this role since 2018. Dr. Marrongelle has served as the Assistant Director for the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate since 2018. In a statement accompanying the announcement, NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan said, "Karen Marrongelle is a strong and innovative leader with a proven track record of excellence and accomplishments. I am delighted to have her taking on this important role at an amazing time for NSF."

COSSA Member Spotlight

AAPOR Releases Report Evaluating 2020 Election Polling

The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) has released a report analyzing the pre-election polls from the 2020 elections titled “Task Force on 2020 Pre-Election Polling: An Evaluation of the 2020 General Election Polls.” The task force consisted of 19 members chosen to ensure diversity of backgrounds and opinions from various organizations, media outlets, and academic institutions. One of the main points covered in the report relates to polling errors that may have stemmed from issues of noncoverage, nonresponse, or statistical adjustments. The report notes that small errors can add up and have large effects on the predictions of winners. The task force found that in nearly every contest, there was an overstatement of the Democratic-Republican margin in favor of the Democratic candidate.

The AAPOR task force was unable to conclude why the 2020 polling error was so large and widespread; however, they were able to draw a few conclusions from their investigation. According to the report, these errors were not primarily caused by late-deciding voters, failure to weigh by education, incorrect assumptions about the composition of the electorate, reluctance to express support for Trump, incorrect estimates on voter turnout, or too few early voters or Election Day voters. The report states, “it seems plausible that many issues were caused by nonresponse. Nevertheless, it is so far impossible to know the primary issue. Among the possibilities are: too many Democrats
and too few Republicans responding to the polls (between-party nonresponse); the Democrats/Republicans who responded had different opinions than those who did not (within-party nonresponse); and new voters and independents unpredictable in terms of both size (too many or too few) and representativeness (i.e., were the new voters who responded similar to those who did not?)."

While the report notes that similar issues with polling errors could occur in future elections, the 2020 election was unique due to its occurrence during a global pandemic and the significant increase in voter turnout. Ultimately, the report concludes it is not possible to predict what will happen in the polls for the next few years but that informing people on the limitations of pre-election polling can aid in decreasing distrust in the polling system from Americans.

The full report and more information can be found on the AAPOR website.

This article was contributed by COSSA’s summer intern, Lillian Chmielewska of the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

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**Editor's Note**

The COSSA Washington Update and our monthly Headlines webchat will be on summer hiatus. We will return to our normal schedule beginning August 31. COSSA members can sign up for members-only emails to receive news and updates during our break.

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**Resources & Opportunities**

**COSSA Letters & Statements**

- **7/22/2021:** Letter of Congratulations to Dr. Eric Lander on Confirmation as OSTP Director

**Nomination Opportunities**

- **NEW:** DOC/Census: Call for Nominations: National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations (Closes: September 30, 2021)
- **NEW:** NSF: 2022 Alan T. Waterman Award (Closes: September 20, 2021)

**New & Expiring Funding Opportunities**

- **NEW:** NSF: Graduate Research Fellowship Program (Closes: October 19, 2021)
- NSF: Research on Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning (RETTL) (Closes: October 18, 2021)
- NSF: Dynamic Language Infrastructure - NEH Documenting Endangered Languages (DLI-DEL) (Closes: September 15, 2021)
- ED/IES: Education Research (FY 2022) (Closes: September 9, 2021)
- ED/IES: Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences (Closes: September 9, 2021)
ED/IES: Research Grants Focused on Systematic Replication (Closes: September 9, 2021)
ED/IES: Research to Accelerate Pandemic Recovery in Special Education-2 (Closes: September 9, 2021)
NSF: Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace Frontiers (SaTC Frontiers) (LOI Due: September 7, 2021) (Closes: November 17, 2021)
ED/IES: Statistical and Research Methodology in Education (Closes: August 12, 2021)
ED/IES: Using Longitudinal Data to Support State Education Recovery Policymaking (Closes: August 12, 2021)
NSF: Program on Fairness in Artificial Intelligence in Collaboration with Amazon (FAI) (Closes: August 3, 2021)

More funding opportunities

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NEW: Congress: Social Determinants of Health Caucus - Request for Information (Closes: September 21, 2021)
- ED/IES: Comment Request: National Study to Inform the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program (Closes: August 10, 2021)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- NEW: NIH: NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NEW: NSF: Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) (Closes: September 13, 2021)
- NEW: NSF: Division Director, Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (Closes: August 19, 2021)
- NSF Social and Economic Sciences Division Director (Closes: August 6, 2021)
- NEW: NIFA: Supervisory Social Science Specialist (Closes: July 30, 2021)
- NASEM: Board Director - Board on Environmental Change and Society

Upcoming Events

- VIRTUAL: NIH/OSTP Listening Sessions on ARPA-H, July 21 - August 16, 2021
- VIRTUAL: NASEM Workshop on the Utility, Feasibility, Security, and Ethics of Verifiable COVID-19 Credentials for International Travel, August 3-5, 2021
- VIRTUAL: American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 6-10, 2021
- VIRTUAL: Joint Statistical Meetings, August 8-12, 2021
- CANCELLED: COSSA Headlines, August 12, 2021
- VIRTUAL: American Psychological Association Annual Convention, August 12-14, 2021
- VIRTUAL: COSSA Headlines | September, September 9, 2021
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition, September 29-October 3, 2021, Seattle, WA
- VIRTUAL: COSSA Headlines | October, October 14, 2021

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@cossa.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

### 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
- Stanford University
- University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Irvine
- 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 Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Texas, Austin
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Virginia Tech
- West Virginia University
- Yale University

### 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
- 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
- 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
- Southwestern Social Science Association

### Affiliates

### Centers and Institutes
- American Academy of Political and Social Science
- Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
- Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
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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