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Featured News

Larry Tabak Named Acting Director for NIH, Questions Remain Regarding Presidential Nomination

On December 9, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra [announced](#) that Larry Tabak, current principal deputy director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), would take leadership of NIH as acting director beginning on December 20. Current NIH director Francis Collins announced his intent to step down earlier this year after 15 years of service in the role as the agency's director (see [previous coverage](#) for more details). Tabak has been a mainstay at NIH, serving as director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) for a decade prior to his naming as principal deputy director of NIH in 2010.

President Biden has not yet named a nominee for NIH director and many questions remain regarding who may be nominated. Since the position of NIH director requires a presidential nomination and Senate confirmation, Tabak is expected to remain at the helm of the agency until a permanent successor is named and confirmed. The announcement can be read in full on the [HHS website](#).

New from COSSA

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Forty Years of COSSA

To cap off our celebration of COSSA's 40th anniversary, we are sharing these excerpts from past milestones. You can read all of the articles we've highlighted this year [here](#) and browse the complete archive of the COSSA Washington Update on [our website](#).

[COSSA Celebrates 10th Anniversary as Advocacy Group \(June 10, 1991\)](#)

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) celebrated its tenth anniversary with a day-long series of events on June 3. It was in May 1981 that social and behavioral science funding at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and at other federal agencies came under attack by the Reagan administration, mobilizing a number of the professional associations in these disciplines to counter this threat. What began as an experiment in creating an advocacy group to coordinate that response has led to an organization which still exists ten years later to promote attention to and federal funding for the social and behavioral sciences.

Current Executive Director Howard J. Silver, who has been with COSSA for eight of its ten years, led off the celebration with a brief review of the organization's history from the battles in the early days, such as the victory on the Winn Amendment, to the current effort to create a separate directorate for the social, economic and psychological sciences at NSF.

[Speakers Weigh Social Science's Impact, Celebrate 20 Years of COSSA \(November 5, 2001\)](#)

"A fiery intellectual agenda" is reflected in the COSSA's 20th anniversary events, remarked keynote speaker David Ward at COSSA's annual meeting October 29 in Washington, D.C. Over 80 social and behavioral science researchers, government officials association leaders, and representatives of COSSA's members converged to celebrate the influence of social and behavioral science on public policy and look to the future.

Originally booked for the Library of Congress, the meeting was moved to the Hyatt on Capitol Hill which, unlike the Congressional buildings, was not closed for anthrax clean-up.

Ward, President of the American Council on Education, kicked off the all-day meeting by referring to the contents of *Fostering Human Progress: Social and Behavioral Science Research Contributions to Public Policy*, produced by COSSA for the occasion.

[COSSA Holds 30th Anniversary Colloquium and Celebration \(November 10, 2011\)](#)

On November 2 and 3, the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) held its 30th Anniversary Colloquium and Celebration in Washington, DC. The largest audience in COSSA meeting history

heard talks from key federal officials and distinguished social scientists.

The day began with a welcome from COSSA Executive Director Howard J. Silver in which he explained the organization's origins as an advocacy group - the need to fight severe cuts proposed by the Reagan Administration in 1981 to the social and behavioral science budgets at the National Science Foundation and elsewhere in the federal government. He also noted that in the subsequent 30 years, COSSA has dealt with five presidential administration and sixteen congresses.

Tom Mann of the Brookings Institution, who served as the first chair of COSSA's Executive Committee, gave the keynote address examining the political landscape of the last thirty years. He also congratulated COSSA for becoming "a serious Washington player" through its advocacy for the social sciences.

Congressional News

FY 2022 Bills Delayed until February, Build Back Better Act Inches Forward

On December 3, the House and Senate agreed to the terms of a second continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government open and operating until February 18, 2022. Although fiscal year (FY) 2022 officially began more than two months ago on October 1, Congress has yet to complete negotiations on any of its 12 annual appropriations bills. The latest CR kicks the can into next year, allowing lawmakers time to focus on other year-end priorities. COSSA's full coverage of FY 2022 appropriations is available [here](#).

In the category of "must-pass" legislation are the annual [defense authorization bill](#), which includes funding authorizations for DOD's research programs (including in the social and behavioral sciences), and an increase to the federal debt limit. Both of these measures could be resolved as soon as this week.

In addition, the Senate continues to inch forward on the FY 2022 budget reconciliation bill ([H.R. 5376](#)), also known as the *Build Back Better Act*. This massive package containing funding for social safety net programs and climate change initiatives, as well as some funding for federal research agencies, would provide an infusion of new funds in FY 2022 (as well as multi-year funding) in addition to the annual appropriations noted above. The House passed its version of the bill in November, knowing that the Senate is likely to proposed significant changes in order to secure passage given the chamber's razor thin Democratic majority. The reconciliation process—a parliamentary procedure typically used to achieve changes in law related to spending or revenue—can be a time-consuming endeavor, often requiring the work of multiple Congressional authorizing committees (as opposed to the appropriations committees), but in the end requires only a simple majority in the Senate to pass. Congressional leaders are hoping to enact the bill by Christmas. COSSA will continue to report on the process of the Build Back Better Act.

Executive Branch News

GAO Report Cites Need for Better Police Use-of-Force Data

The Government Accountability Office has released a [report](#) assessing the release of data from the Department of Justice (DOJ) related to law enforcement use of force. Overall, the report finds that the Department has not been consistently publishing legally required data on excessive force and that DOJ can do a better job of sharing this information. The report makes note of delays in the release of data produced by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), an issue not limited to use-of-force data (COSSA has written [several letters](#) advocating for the timely release of BJS data). The report recommends that BJS “assess the causes of delays in publishing reports related to law enforcement’s use of force and identify corrective actions to address such delays” and to update its own performance measures to reflect a wider breadth of its publications. In a response to the GAO report, DOJ agreed to take action to address both of these recommendations. The full report is available on the [GAO website](#).

Census Seeking Comment on New “Ask U.S.” Opinion Panel

The Census Bureau is seeking [approval](#) for a new nationally representative survey panel called “Ask U.S.,” to be used for “tracking public opinion on a variety of topics of interest to numerous federal agencies and their partners, and for conducting experimentation on alternative question wording and methodological approaches” as well as potentially collecting “nationwide rapid-response data to address emerging data needs.” Public comment is being [accepted](#) on the new activity, which will also be coordinated with the Economic Research Service, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, and the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, among other federal partners. According to the [Federal Register notice](#), the new activity will begin with a pilot program of 1,700 people, before scaling up to a full sample size of 17,000. Comments are being accepted on this new activity through February 7, 2022.

NSF Announces Build and Broaden 3.0 Collaborations with Minority-Serving Institutions

The Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting applications for [Build and Broaden 3.0](#), the latest iteration of the collaborative program aiming to support fundamental research and research collaborations at minority-serving institutions (MSIs). Updates on the Build and Broaden program were featured during the [SBE Advisory Committee meeting](#) on December 2, with NSF staff providing comments on previous fiscal year awards, updated eligibility criteria for the awards, outreach efforts to tribal-serving institutions, and the creation of a new Program Officer role for Build and Broaden 3.0.

The target due date for Build and Broaden 3.0 applications is March 1, 2022. More information is available on the [NSF website](#).

Science Community News

Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment Releases Year Two Annual Report

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) [Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment](#) released its [annual report](#) summarizing findings and progress through its second year of work. The Action Collaborative, which was organized in 2019 by more than sixty colleges, universities, and research institutions, is charged with developing evidence-based strategies to prevent sexual harassment in higher education settings. The report describes the progress made across its four main goals: raising awareness about sexual harassment, elevating evidence-based policies to reduce and prevent sexual harassment, contributing to a shared research agenda on sexual harassment across member institutions, and developing standards for measuring progress on sexual harassment issues in higher education. The report also includes a summary of efforts made by Action Collaborative participants to prevent, respond to, and remediate instances of sexual harassment and evaluate institutional strategies. The report

is available on the [National Academies website](#).

Participants Sought for NSF-Funded January Bioeconomies Workshop

UIDP is hosting a [virtual workshop](#) January 11-12, with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), to bring together an interdisciplinary group of scientists from the public and private sectors who understand and support societal, economic, behavioral, and other challenges and opportunities that arise in developing a bioeconomy ecosystem. The workshop will convene experts from academia, industry, and public and private sectors to explore societal, economic, behavioral, regulatory, and other challenges and opportunities to help design bioeconomy innovation hubs, such as [Regional Innovation Accelerators](#) proposed by NSF, and develop a bioeconomy ecosystem that spurs innovation, entrepreneurship, economic growth, and social wellbeing.

According to the website, “There is a need to understand societal, economic, behavioral, and other challenges and opportunities that arise in developing a bioeconomy ecosystem, and how these factors interact in spurring innovation through bioeconomy innovation hubs, encouraging entrepreneurship, and growth of a bioeconomy.”

Participation in the workshop is by invitation only; therefore, those interested should submit their names and CVs to Michael Brizek, program director, at mike@uidp.net no later than December 23 for best consideration.

COSSA Member Spotlight

PAA Holds Congressional Briefing on the Demographic Implications of Climate Change

On December 6, the Population Association of America (PAA), a Governing Member of COSSA, organized a virtual Congressional [briefing](#) titled “Braving the Storm: How Climate Change Will Affect How and Where We Live.” The briefing, which was moderated by Chair of the PAA Government and Public Affairs Committee Vida Maralani, featured presentations on research reflecting the impact of climate change on international and domestic demographic changes. The first presentation, by Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue of Cornell University, highlighted several demographic implications for climate change and its impact on the Sahel region on the African continent. The second presentation, by Sarah Curran of the University of Washington, used a retrospective lens to discuss the short-term and long-term impacts of hurricanes on population change in U.S. counties since 1970. The third presentation, by Mathew Hauer of Florida State University, attempts to forecast how climate change may impact populations on the U.S. coasts throughout the remainder of the 21st century. A recording of the event is available [here](#).

Editor's Note

This is our final issue of the COSSA Washington Update of 2021. Late-breaking news and analysis will be shared with COSSA members subscribed to our [members-only emails](#). We will resume our ongoing coverage of policy developments affecting the social and behavioral sciences on January 4. The COSSA team wishes all of our readers a happy and healthy holiday season.

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- 12/10/2021: [Coalition for International Education Letter to Congress on the](#)

[Reauthorization of International Education Programs Under Title VI of the Higher Education Act](#)

- 12/2/2021: [Census Project Letter to Congress on a Continuing Resolution Spending Anomaly for the U.S. Census Bureau](#)
- 12/1/2021: [Science & Technology Action Committee Letter to Congress Urging Passage of Authorization Legislation for the National Science Foundation](#)
- 11/23/2021: [Coalition for National Science Funding Letter to Congress Urging Passage of Authorization Legislation for the National Science Foundation](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- HHS: [Solicitation of Nominations for Membership on the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections \(SACHRP\)](#) (Closes: January 11, 2022)
- [2022 Golden Goose Award Nominations](#) (Closes: December 17, 2021)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH: Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery ([R01 BESH Required](#)) ([R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed](#)) ([R01 Clinical Trial Required](#)) (Opens: May 21, 2022) (Closes: June 22, 2024)
- NIH: [Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers \(MOSAIC\) Institutionally-Focused Research Education Award to Promote Diversity](#) (Closes: November 16, 2023)
- NIH: [Health Care Systems Research Collaboratory - Pragmatic and Implementation Trials of Embedded Interventions](#) (Closes: June 18, 2022)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Encouraging Research on Open Knowledge Networks](#) (Closes: April 15, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: [Preventing Opioid Misuse and Co-Occurring Conditions by Intervening on Social Determinants \(R01 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#) (Closes: March 2, 2022)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research \(FW-HTF\)](#) (Closes: March 2, 2022)
- **NEW:** NSF/SBE: [Build and Broaden 3.0 \(B2 3.0\)](#) (Target Dates: March 1, 2022)
- **NEW:** NSF/SBE: [Ethical and Responsible Research \(ER2\)](#) (Closes: February 17, 2022)
- NSF: [Science and Technology Centers: Integrative Partnerships \(STC\)](#) (Closes: February 1, 2022)
- William T. Grant Foundation: [Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence](#) (Closes: January 12, 2022)
- SSRC: [The Mercury Project: Call for Proposals](#) (rolling deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- **NEW:** DOC/Census: [Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Ask U.S. Panel](#) (Closes: February 7, 2022)
- DOC/Census: [Submission to the Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Business Pulse Survey](#) (Closes: January 10, 2022)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education: Year Two Annual Report of Activities](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- SRCD: [Federal Policy Fellowship Program](#) (Closes: January 4, 2022)
- OES: [Federal Details](#) (Closes: January 3, 2022)
- OES: [General Fellowships](#) (Closes: January 3, 2022)
- NIH/NCI: [Chief, Tobacco Control Research Branch](#) (Closes: December 15, 2021)
- NASEM: [Executive Director - Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and](#)

Education

- NASEM: [Board Director - Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences](#)
- NASEM: [Board Director - Board on Human Systems Integration](#)

Upcoming Events

- **VIRTUAL:** [Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting](#), January 5-9, 2022
- **HYBRID:** [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), January 6-9, 2022, Washington, DC
- **HYBRID:** [American Historical Association Annual Meeting](#), January 6-9, 2022, New Orleans, LA
- **VIRTUAL:** [American Economic Association Annual Meeting](#), January 7-9, 2022
- **HYBRID:** [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference](#), January 12-16, 2022, Washington, DC
- [Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#), January 12-15, 2022, San Antonio, TX
- **VIRTUAL:** [COSSA Headlines | January, January 13, 2022](#)
- **HYBRID:** [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), February 16-19, 2022, San Francisco, CA
- [American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting](#), February 25 - March 1, 2021, New York, NY

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@coossa.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

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

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

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

SAGE Publishing
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University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
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University of Pittsburgh
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University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

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
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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