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Featured News

Nelson, Collins Step in to Lead White House Science Efforts

On February 16, the White House [announced](#) the appointment of Dr. Alondra Nelson as the interim director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) effective immediately, replacing Eric Lander who stepped down last month amid allegations of workplace bullying. Dr. Nelson, a sociologist, is [currently serving](#) as OSTP Deputy Director for Science and Society. In addition, Dr. Francis Collins, who recently retired as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has been asked to step in as the President’s Science Advisor and Co-Chair of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Both Nelson and Collins will serve in their respective capacities until permanent leaders are nominated and confirmed. Lander previously held both positions as head of OSTP and Presidential Science Advisor.

New from COSSA



Be part of the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social

and behavioral sciences and tell your members of Congress why federal support for social science funding is essential.

**REGISTER
NOW**

March Headlines to Feature Deep Dive on Virtual Advocacy

COSSA members are encouraged to sign up for the monthly [COSSA Headlines](#) webinar on Thursday March 10, in which COSSA staff will break down the most important social and behavioral science news from the past month. The March webinar will feature a deep dive discussion with the COSSA team on advocating virtually for the social and behavioral sciences. Individuals employed by or affiliated with a COSSA member organization or university can register for the webinar [here](#).



Smithsonian Ambassador-at-Large Richard Kurin Answers “Why Social Science?”

**WHY
SOCIAL
SCIENCE?**

The latest [Why Social Science? quest post](#) comes from Richard Kurin, Distinguished Scholar & Ambassador at Large at the Smithsonian Institution, who writes about the role social science plays in protecting and preserving cultural heritage.

Congressional News

Science Funding, Aid to Ukraine, and a Supreme Court Nomination

Congress will have its hands full over the coming weeks as lawmakers attempt to finish up fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations bills while also seeking emergency aid to Ukraine. Senators will have an especially busy schedule as they begin consideration of Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson. We are likely to see attempts to provide funding for Ukraine as part of a package that will also include the FY 2022 bills. As [previously reported](#), Congress has until March 11 to complete the appropriations for the fiscal year that is nearly half over. The next few weeks will be critical for finally putting FY 2022 behind us and getting started on the FY 2023 bills. COSSA will be watching for Congress to release their final FY 2022 bills in the coming days and will provide an analysis when details become available.

Congress Continues Focus on Mental Health in Subcommittee Hearing

On February 17, the House Energy and Commerce Oversight Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) to discuss the national mental health crisis and plans to address it. The hearing, overseen by Subcommittee Chair Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Ranking Member Morgan Griffith (R-VA), is the third Congressional hearing in the past month focused on potential policy solutions related to mental health (see [previous coverage](#) for more details). The witnesses present at the hearing were American Psychiatric Association member and vice-chair of psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco Dr. Lisa Fortuna, assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University Dr. Jacqueline Nesi, CEO and executive director of the Trevor Project Amit Paley, co-founder of the Defensive Line Christopher Thomas, and former assistant Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary for mental health and substance abuse Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz.

Subcommittee Chair DeGette focused her opening statement on how the mental health

crisis has disproportionately affected marginalized individuals, particularly people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, and youth. Ranking Member Griffith focused his opening statement on issues of accessibility related to mental health care and how the intersection of substance use and the mental health crisis should be addressed. Many of these themes were repeated in the opening statements of the witnesses, who emphasized the particularly damaging effects of the mental health crisis on children, particularly in marginalized communities. Additionally, many of the witnesses stated the importance of increasing accessibility to mental health coverage for the American people and the discussed the benefits of telehealth services. While some Subcommittee members focused their questions on the effects of masking on mental health, most members asked about ways to best address the nation's mental health needs, what can be done to support marginalized groups, and how to best serve Americans who are experiencing mental health crises.

Subcommittee Chair DeGette concluded the hearing by stating the committee's bipartisan interest in reauthorizing programs under the committee's jurisdiction as well as expressing the committee's interest in championing future legislation to address the mental health crisis. A recording of the hearing is available on the [Subcommittee website](#).

This article was contributed by COSSA's Spring Intern Sofi Cavenaile of the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Executive Branch News

NIH Seeking Comments on Upcoming Diversity Strategic Plan

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) seeking stakeholder comments in regards to the proposed framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) currently in development. This strategic plan is being developed in response to an [Executive Order](#) on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce released in June 2021 by the Biden Administration. The framework currently names three major objectives of the strategic plan:

- Implement organizational practices to center and prioritize DEIA in the workforce;
- Grow and sustain DEIA through structural and cultural change; and
- Advance DEIA through research.

Comments will be accepted through April 3, 2022. More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

Bob Valdez Named New AHRQ Director

On February 22, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) [announced](#) that Robert "Bob" Otto Valdez had been appointed as the agency's director and would assume leadership responsibilities immediately. Dr. Valdez comes to the agency with a lengthy career in health disparities research and policy, having previously been the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and Director of Interagency Health Policy during the Clinton Administration. He has also served as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Professor Emeritus of Family & Community Medicine and Economics at the University of New Mexico and led several global health initiatives focused on health promotion and disease prevention among Hispanic Americans and Spanish speaking populations. A bio of Dr. Valdez is available on the [AHRQ website](#).

NSF Announces New "Open-Source Ecosystems" Program

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has established a new interdisciplinary program called "[Pathways to Enable Open-Source Ecosystems](#)" (POSE), which is intended to "harness the power of open-source development for the creation of new technology solutions to problems of national and societal importance." The program will fund the

establishment of entities to manage networks of open-source products and platforms with the goal of ensuring “more secure open-source products, increased coordination of developer contributions, and a more focused route to impactful technologies.” The program will accept two types of proposals: Phase I projects, focused on “scoping” the development of a potential Open-Source Ecosystem (OSE), and Phase II projects, which will develop a sustainable OSE based on an existing open-source product. Proposals for Phase I projects are due May 12, 2022, and Phase II products are due October 21, 2022. More details are available in the full [program solicitation](#).

COSSA Member Spotlight

PAA to Host Virtual Briefing on Trends Affecting Rural Communities

The Population Association of America (PAA), a COSSA governing member, is hosting a Congressional briefing entitled “[Small Towns/Big Trends: Demographic Insights on Living, Working, and Thriving](#),” that will feature an expert panel presenting research regarding demographic, economic, health, and environmental challenges and opportunities facing U.S. rural communities. The virtual briefing will take place on March 18, at 12:00 pm ET. Participants can register for the briefing [here](#).

Join COSSA, UIDP, and the University of Maryland for an in-person workshop on U-I Partnerships in the Social Sciences

The University of Maryland and UIDP, in collaboration with COSSA, the National Science Foundation, MITRE, the Optimal Solutions Group, SAGE Publishing, and the Federation of Associations in the Behavioral and Brain Sciences, will be hosting the second part of the [Workshop on U-I Partnerships in the Social Sciences](#). The in-person workshop will be held on April 20-21, 2022 at The Hotel at the University of Maryland. The event will bring together “a group of experts and leaders from academia, industry, and government to consider how academic-corporate partnerships can advance social, behavioral, and organizational science research to positively impact science and society.”

[LEARN MORE](#)

Resources & Opportunities

Nomination Opportunities

- NSF: [National Medal of Science](#) (Closes: May 20, 2022)

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)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Validation of Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Tools for Improved Assessment in Epidemiological, Clinical, and Intervention Research](#) (Opens: March 7, 2022) (Closes: March 9, 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:** NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Opens: May 8, 2022) (Closes: June 16, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (Opens: May 8, 2022) (Closes: June 16, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH/NCI: [Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Opens: May 8, 2022) (Closes: June 5, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH: [BRAIN Initiative: Targeted BRAIN Circuits Projects- TargetedBCP \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#) (Closes: June 1, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH: [BRAIN Initiative: Targeted BRAIN Circuits Planning Projects – TargetedBCPP \(R34 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#) (Closes: June 1, 2022)
- NSF: [Strengthening American Infrastructure \(SAI\)](#) (Closes: May 5, 2022)
- **NEW:** NSF: [Civic Innovation Challenge](#) (Closes May 5, 2022)
- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Encouraging Research on Open Knowledge Networks](#) (Closes: April 15, 2022)
- NEA: [Research Grants in the Arts](#) (Closes: March 28, 2022)
- NEA: [NEA Research Labs](#) (Closes: March 28, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: [HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action \(HD2A\) Research Adoption Support Center](#) (Closes: March 25, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: [HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action \(HD2A\) Innovation Projects](#) (Closes: March 10, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: [HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action \(HD2A\) Data Infrastructure Support Center](#) (Closes: March 10, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: [HEAL Initiative: HEAL Data2Action \(HD2A\) Modeling and Economic Resource Center](#) (Closes: March 10, 2022)
- **NEW:** NIH: [Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-related Food and Housing Policies and Programs on Health Outcomes in Health Disparity Populations \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (LOI Due: March 7, 2022; Closes: April 7, 2022)
- NIH/NIDA: [Preventing Opioid Misuse and Co-Occurring Conditions by Intervening on Social Determinants \(R01 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#) (Closes: March 2, 2022)
- NSF: [Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research \(FW-HTF\)](#) (Closes: March 2, 2022)
- SSRC: [The Mercury Project: Call for Proposals](#) (rolling deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NIH: [Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility](#) (Closes: April 3, 2022)
- OMB: [Request for Comment: The Interagency Council on Statistical Policy's Recommendation for a Standard Application Process \(SAP\) for Requesting Access to Certain Confidential Data Assets](#) (Closes: March 14, 2022)
- OSTP: [Request for Information to the Update of the National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan](#) (Closes: March 4, 2022)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** NASEM/SEAN: [Short-Term Strategies for Addressing the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women's Workforce Participation](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Police Training to Promote the Rule of Law and Protect the Population](#)
- **NEW:** CDC/NCHS: [Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2020](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- NIH/NCI: [Cancer Research Training Award Fellowship in Health Behaviors Research](#) (rolling deadline)
- NIH/NCI: [Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Equity and Basic Behavioral and Psychological Science Research](#) (rolling deadline)

Upcoming Events

- [NASEM: COVID-19 and the Digital Divide: Implications for Policy and Equity](#), March 3, 2022
- [Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting](#), March 3-5, 2022, New Orleans, LA
- [NIH OBSSR Director's Webinar: Innovative Approaches to Understanding Eating Disorders](#), March 8, 2022
- **[COSSA Headlines | March, March 10, 2022](#)**
- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting](#), March 15-19, 2022, Las Vegas, NV
- [PAA Congressional Briefing: Small Towns/Big Trends: Demographic Insights on Living, Working, and Thriving](#), March 18, 2022
- **[COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day, March 29, 2022](#)**
- [Population Association of America Annual Meeting](#), April 6-9, 2022, Atlanta, GA
- [Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions](#), April 6-9, 2022, Baltimore, MD
- [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), April 7-10, 2022, Chicago, IL
- [Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), April 13-16, 2022, Chicago, IL
- [U-I Partnerships in the Social Sciences](#), April 20-21, 2022, College Park, MD
- [Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting](#), April 21-23, 2022, San Antonio, TX
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), April 22-25, 2022, San Diego, CA
- [American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting](#), April 28-30, 2022, Philadelphia, PA
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), May 12-15, 2022, Chicago, IL

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
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Colleges and Universities

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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
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Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Stanford University
University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley

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
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Communication Association
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
Southern Political Science Association
Southwestern Social Science Association

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Cornell Center for Social Sciences
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
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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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