**Budget and Appropriations Update** -- On June 20 the House approved a $491 billion spending bill for the Pentagon, marking the fifth appropriations bill passed by House lawmakers. The House also has passed Fiscal 2015 funding bills for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; the Legislative branch; Commerce, Justice and Science spending; and the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development departments.

The Defense spending bill would provide $491 billion for military personnel, defense technology research and equipment procurement. Overall, the funding provided is $4.1 billion more than the current spending level and $201.8 million above the Obama administration's budget request. The Senate Defense appropriations subcommittee plans to mark up its version July 17.

With one possible exception, the House may be on a pace to fulfill Appropriations chairman Hal Rogers’ vow to have all 12 spending bills ready for House floor debate this summer.

But the Senate is having no such luck. A proposed Senate deal on considering three of the 12 appropriations in a package broke down last week when Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) could not agree on the procedure for the debate.

Another spending measure—Labor-HHS-Education—also appears to be stuck in neutral for the time being. On June 17, the Senate subcommittee that handles that bill passed the $156.8 billion measure by voice vote. However, plans to ratify the bill two days later were scrapped when GOP committee members threatened to propose amendments related to social policy and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

As it turns out, Senate Democrats running in tight reelection races were reluctant to vote on these controversial amendments.

But politics is weighing in on the House side as well. Georgia Republican Jack Kingston, who heads the House Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee, faces a dual challenge as he tries to craft a spending bill to fund the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services while running in a tight race for a Senate seat.

Kingston is in a contentious July 22 runoff election to be the Republican nominee for Georgia’s open Senate seat, where he and his opponent are both trying to establish
themselves as fiscally conservative GOP candidates. Rather than risk marking up a spending bill that includes some of the government’s largest domestic programs, Kingston appears likely to put off action on the bill until after his run-off race.

What does all this portend? A Continuing Resolution will likely be passed in September to keep government agencies running for two months. The best-case scenario is for appropriators to return after the November elections and hammer out a massive, year-end omnibus, much like they did in January for Fiscal 2014.

**House and Senate Committees release drafts for Higher Education Act rewrite**

The first steps in what is likely to be a long road to a new reauthorization of the Higher Education Act were taken this week by both the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction issuing drafts and documents with concepts likely to be included in their eventual legislation.

On June 24, House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN) and Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) released an 11-page white paper outlining key principles that will guide their drafting of reauthorization legislation.

Rather than develop one single bill, the legislators state their intention to introduce a series of bills starting soon and continuing over the next few months. The current Act (PL 110-315) expires at the end of 2014 but another law (the General Education Provisions Act (PL 90-247) will keep its provisions in force for an additional year.

On June 25, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee released his legislative draft for a reauthorization as well as a summary of its concepts. Both committees have each held hearings over the last few years to examine key issues ahead of drafting the new bill.

Based on the documents released, the two committees appear to have similar intentions in several areas: modifying income-based repayment programs, expanding Pell Grants availability, providing improved information and disclosures to prospective students, and reforming teacher preparation programs. In general, Senate Democrats will focus on affordability and student loan debt while the Republicans in the House would like to cut the Federal footprint in higher education and improve student choices in the process.

**House principles**
The House white paper includes a number of policy proposals to reform federal postsecondary education law. The four principles outlined in the white paper are:

- Empowering students and families to make informed decisions;
- Simplifying and improving student aid;
- Promoting innovation, access, and completion; and
- Ensuring strong accountability and a limited federal role.
The paper contains proposals to improve the IPEDS survey process for institutions, streamline information made available to prospective students, enhance financial literacy among student borrowers, stop the proposed Education Department rating system for institutions, and simplify student aid programs and repayment options. The Committee would also focus much attention on the Pell Grant program, proposing a “Flex Pell Grant” to let students know the amount of Pell support that would be available over their full six years on eligibility, and draw the funds as needed. The Committee also wants to focus on improving the long term fiscal sustainability of the program for the government.

The Committee proposes to encourage innovation by institutions and lessen the reporting and regulatory burden on them. Online education would be enhanced and state authorization regulations diminished under the plan. Competency-based education models gain support in the Committee paper with a proposal for a demonstration program allowing the Education Department to waive current laws and regulations during the test of new models.

The paper calls for better college access methods and programs to support at-risk and first-generation students and minority-serving institutions. Particular attention is devoted to reducing the reporting and regulatory burden on institutions. The more than 82 teacher preparation programs across 10 agencies would be better coordinated and streamlined under the plan. The paper also hints at coming legislation to undo some of the Education Department’s program integrity regulations, saying that the Administration has “upended” the balance among accrediting agencies and state licensing boards and the federal government. To read the Committee’s press release on the white paper, click here.

**Senate proposal**
The Senate HELP Committee proposes to expand Pell Grant availability by returning to the use of a summer Pell eligibility, which was eliminated in 2010.

The HELP proposal would create a state-federal partnership to bolster higher education investment and attempt to stem the decline of state contributions to the sector. A commission would be tasked to examine ways to accomplish risk-sharing – a process that would assess financial penalties to colleges who have low graduation rates or whose students accrue massive debt burdens.

In a notable omission so far, the Harkin proposal does not include provisions from the recent student loan refinancing bill by Sen. Elizabeth Warren that has stalled in the Senate. (See next article)

For-profit schools are targeted in a proposal to reduce the so-called “90-10” rule to 85 percent – the limit of total profits a for-profit school can earn from federal financial aid sources, although it’s unclear if GI Bill benefits would count in that calculation.

**Likely course**
With Congressional mid-term elections in the fall and a compressed Congressional calendar, there is little time for the extended process that will be required to pass House
and Senate bills and then negotiate and pass a conference bill through both chambers. But by introducing draft bills this summer each Committee can begin floating ideas that may gain traction in the next Congress. With the issues being outlined by both sides, this next reauthorization could take an extended period of time and eventually bring significant changes to higher education.

**Student loan refinancing bill stalls in Senate; hearings cover debt burden issues**

Student loan refinancing legislation introduced by 31 Senate Democrats was blocked June 11 when the bill failed to clear a procedural hurdle with the Senate voting 56 to 38 on proceeding to consider the measure. Sixty votes were needed under Senate rules.

Republicans accused Senate Democrats of using the measure as a political “messaging” bill heading into next fall’s Congressional elections. Most Republicans voted against the bill because of the proposed spending offset which would have raised taxes on high income individuals. The bill sponsors vowed to bring it back to the floor again later in the session.

When the bill was introduced June 4, it was the centerpiece of two hearings examining the ramifications of the nation’s growing student debt load. To read a fact sheet on the bill, click here.

S. 2432, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, is led by Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren. The bill would allow student loan borrowers to refinance FFELP and Direct loans -- or any private student loan -- into the current federal program under the new, market-based system enacted last summer. The rate in effect now for undergraduates is approximately 3.86 percent and the Warren bill would let all previous borrowers refinance to that rate.

The Congressional Budget Office released an estimate that assumes about half of all borrowers with outstanding federal student loans would take advantage of the measure. The CBO said the $460 billion in federal loans and another $60 billion in private loans would be refinanced if the bill was enacted. According to CBO, “On net, CBO and JCT estimate that enacting the bill would increase deficits over the 2015-2019 period by about $19 billion but reduce deficits over the 2015-2024 period by about $22 billion.” To read the estimate, click here.

To cover the substantial cost of making this change, the bill proposes to close tax loopholes for millionaires by setting a 30 percent minimum effective tax rate. The bill sponsors cite a recent GAO report estimating that the federal government will make $66 billion on older student loans issued between 2007 and 2012 if nothing is done to allow refinancing to today’s lower rates.

**Banking Committee Hearing**

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs held a hearing on the effect of high student loan interest rates and debt June 4.
Over the course of the hearing, witnesses pointed out the flaws of the new multi-servicer arrangement through the Federal Direct Loan Program. This multi-servicer arrangement is said to be confusing to the borrower with a lack of uniformity among contractors. To address the issues, it was suggested that the government limit the number of contractors and require that they serve as invisible agents with identical processes and policies.

Contractors were also blamed for a lack of communication with borrowers, especially on information about the different payment options available. Problems were also highlighted with the process itself which was said to be intimidating, confusing, and unintuitive to the borrower.

While it is important that the government make efforts to address the high student loan interest rates and debt, it is equally important that borrowers be better educated about their options. To this extent, one witness advocated that institutions and students be given access to financial data to plan their futures. This would be made possible through Meteor, an existing program run by the National Student Clearinghouse that tracks financial aid in real time. By providing borrowers this information, they will be able to make more informed decisions that can positively influence their economic futures.

Witness Lindsey Burke of the Heritage Foundation emphasized the necessity to curb federal spending on the Pell Grant funding. She cited studies to say that Federal financial aid programs have fueled inflation in college tuition. To view the hearing or read the testimony, click here.

**Budget Committee Hearing**

Also on June 4, the Senate Budget Committee held its hearing addressing student loan debt and its effects on borrowers, career choice and the economy. Among the witnesses were Rohit Chopra of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau discussing student loans, Dr. Richard Vedder a professor at Ohio University discussing the economics of the impeding problem, and Brittany Jones a recent graduate sharing her personal struggle with student loan debt.

Witnesses discussed the increasing effects student loan debt has on borrowers. They pointed out that dealing with overwhelming student debt has become a reality for a growing number of Americans. The average college graduate will have to pay back around $30,000 in student loans. Witnesses pointed out that because of this young people are dealing with more debt than ever before and this debt has lasting consequences on both the borrower and the nation’s economy.

Several points were made about this debt making it increasingly more difficult for young Americans with student loans to develop savings, buy a car or applying for a home mortgage – all factors that can affect the nation’s economy and housing market. College graduates without debt had accumulated seven times more savings than those with debt in one study. Consequently, the increased difficulty to develop a savings has also
made it more difficult for those with student loan debt to save for retirement. To view the hearing, click here.

Veterans’ in-state tuition measure passed by Senate

A provision to provide in-state tuition rates to veterans attending public universities under the GI Bill was included in compromise legislation to address VA medical waiting time issues passed in the Senate June 12.

The provision is drawn from a bill already passed in the House, the GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act (HR 357) sponsored by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL) and introduced in the Senate as S.257 by Florida Senator Bill Nelson.

In administering GI Bill benefits, the legislation would direct the VA to disapprove courses of education provided by a public university that does not charge tuition and fees for veterans at the same rate that is charged for in-state residents, regardless of the veteran's state of residence. The VA would also have waiver authority for special circumstances, for instance if a student veteran is called up for service while enrolled and attending school.

The Senate bill will next move to a conference committee that is expected to resolve differences with the House.

New Federal rules proposed to curb campus sexual assault; Senate legislation being developed

New Federal regulations relating to campus sexual assault were proposed by the Education Department and appeared in the Federal Register June 20. The proposal will remain open for comments until July 21 and current plans call for the final rule to become effective November 1. To read the rules click here.

Written under the authority of two laws – the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 -- the rules will require colleges and universities to take a number of additional steps aimed at curbing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The rules were drafted in several negotiating sessions by a panel comprised of students who were survivors of sexual assault as well as representatives from advocacy organizations, law enforcement, colleges and other groups. The rules follow a report earlier this year by the Education Department showing that sex crimes on U.S. campuses have risen by more than 50 percent over the past decade, rising to 3,300 cases between 2001 and 2011 from 2,200 cases in the previous decade.

The proposal would require institutions to train student and employees on preventing sexual assault and to track and publish statistics for incidents of dating violence,
domestic violence, and stalking, in addition to the currently required statistics for sexual assaults and certain other crimes. The Administration hopes these data will provide a better picture of the extent to which these forms of abuse occur on our campuses and will better equip colleges, advocates, and policymakers to address these issues.

The regulatory notice states that "Nothing in these proposed regulations alters or changes an institution's obligations or duties under Title IX."

Other changes include:

- Adding gender identity and national origin as categories of bias under the Clery Act’s definition of hate crimes;
- Adopting the FBI’s revised, more inclusive definition of rape;
- Requiring institutions to ensure that their disciplinary proceedings in response to alleged incidents of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are prompt, fair, and impartial;
- Strengthening protections for victim confidentiality while helping victims to access the support, services, and the disciplinary and legal options available to them; and
- Specifying requirements for programs to prevent dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including prevention and awareness programs and campaigns.

**Senate attention to issue**

The topic is getting increasing attention on Capitol Hill as well, with at least three Senators -- Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) -- working on new legislation to strengthen requirements for colleges to report sexual assaults and bolster enforcement of Title IX legislation.

In addition, the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing June 26 on “Sexual Assault on Campus: Working to Ensure Student Safety.”

The hearing was the eleventh in a series to inform the committee’s reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The hearing proceeded by exploring HEA and Title IX, and the ways in which the two laws address issues related to campus sexual assault. Discussions revolved around the HEA and Cleary Act provisions and the critical role they play in ensuring proper reporting of campus sexual assault. Additionally, Title IX was recognized for its substantial role in ensuring colleges have adequate processes in place to quickly and fairly address reports of sexual assaults.

Witness testimony provided examples of work being done by the Administration to ensure that colleges meet their Title IX obligations. Discussion centered on efforts by certain colleges in prevention training. For example, Jane Stapleton of the University of New Hampshire, a recognized leader in this field through the work of their Prevention Innovations center, discussed how UNH is helping other universities design prevention training programs, including training in bystander intervention. To view a hearing webcast or read the testimony, click here.
**Roundtables**

Sen. McCaskill convened two roundtable discussions on campus sexual assault in June. A June 2 meeting was focused on Reporting, Enforcement, Prevention and a June 23 roundtable covered the Criminal Justice System and Administrative Process.

Topics covered in the June 2 roundtable included how to improve data collection from schools, how to make that data actionable, and policies’ inclusiveness of LGBT students. Participants in the discussion found consensus around ideas of requiring all colleges to disclose the name of officials coordinating Title IX matters, considering expanding the financial penalties available against schools that fail to protect their students effectively, potentially adjusting the current statute of limitations in these cases, and the need to publicize schools achieving excellence in protecting their students from sexual violence in order to incentivize better results.

Stakeholders discussed various ways to strengthen Title IX enforcement, through increased transparency and a better penalty and incentive structure. The discussion also focused on the intersection of maintaining survivor confidentiality and the mitigating the public safety risk, especially because many perpetrators are repeat offenders.

At the June 23 discussion on prosecution issues Sen. McCaskill spoke about the responsibilities of institutions: "Educational institutions have a role to play here too. They have a commitment to their students and to their community, and when incidents of sexual violence happen they have an obligation to investigate what happened, support the survivor, ensure a safe campus for all students, and, if the facts bear it out, punish the offender for violating the school's code of conduct. The problem is colleges and universities haven't always done that. They may have ignored the problem, swept it under the rug and hoped the survivor would give up and go away."

**University surveys**

McCaskill is also surveying colleges and universities to learn how schools handle rapes and sexual assaults on campuses -- specifically focusing on how such crimes are reported and investigated and how students are notified about available services. The survey will gauge the effectiveness of federal oversight and enforcement under *Title IX and the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act*, commonly known as the Clery Act. Click [here](#) to view a sample survey. To read about the roundtable on June 2 [click here](#), or on June 26 [click here](#).

**Tuition tax credit would be made permanent under new Ways and Means Committee bill**

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a bill June 25 that would expand and make permanent higher education tax benefits.

HR 3393, the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act, would permanently replace the existing tuition tax benefits under the Hope and Lifetime Learning Benefits program with a single new program called the American Opportunity credit. The credit would be 100
percent of the first $2,000 of qualified expenses with a maximum credit of $2,500 per student tax filer.

The tax bill is one of many tax “extenders” under consideration in both chambers with the hope of passage before the end of the year.

BRAIN Initiative report maps out $4 billion research path


The long-term scientific vision of the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative <http://www.nih.gov/science/brain/index.htm> was presented to National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins by his Advisory Committee to the Director. Dr. Collins accepted the recommendations, calling the report bold and game changing.

The report <http://acd.od.nih.gov/brain.htm> maps out a sustained commitment of $4.5 billion in new federal funding over 10 years beginning in fiscal year 2016 to achieve seven primary goals. NIH already announced an investment of $40 million in fiscal year 2014 and President Obama has made a request for $100 million for NIH's component of the initiative in his fiscal year 2015 budget. The BRAIN Initiative is a joint effort of NIH, NSF, DARPA and FDA.

The report says the scientific goals of the program will be pursued while adhering to seven core principles to:

- Pursue human studies and non-human models in parallel
- Cross boundaries in interdisciplinary collaborations
- Integrate spatial and temporal scales
- Establish platforms for preserving and sharing data
- Validate and disseminate technology
- Consider ethical implications of neuroscience research
- Create mechanisms to ensure accountability to the NIH, the taxpayer, and the community of basic, translational, and clinical neuroscientists

Joint hearing looks at administrative burden of Federally-funded research grants

Reducing the administrative workload for federally funded researchers was covered in a joint hearing by two House Science Committee subcommittees June 12.

Leaders of the Subcommittee on Oversight and the Subcommittee on Research and Technology opened the meeting citing a recent finding by the National Science Board that 42 percent of a researcher’s time is spent solely on administrative duties. The
Members called for a thorough examination of the merits of government regulations on federally-funded projects.

The prevailing theme throughout the hearing was that a balance needs to be found between adequate government oversight and meaningful research and development. Currently the government employs ‘effort reporting’ in order to detect fraud and other types of mismanagement within a project. Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA) acknowledged the difficulties of finding a balance by noting the obligation that the government had towards ensuring that tax money was being spent appropriately and giving researchers the freedom to pursue their work.

During this hearing, the committee members called for creation of a more effective research environment by having the government conduct a cost-benefit analysis on existing regulations. To this end, the witnesses testifying complained that the current research grant system was inefficient and a waste of resources.

Witnesses said that Federal grant administration requires a significant amount of paperwork and administrative oversight which takes away from valuable research time. Coupled with the fact that federal funding for grants has decreased in general, the time and energy required to apply has become increasingly burdensome. To address this problem, the witnesses recommended the creation of a new grant application web portal that would standardize the process and eliminate some repetitious reporting.

While the majority of witness testimony advocated for more relaxed government regulations and oversight, Allison Lerner, Inspector General of the National Science Foundation, remained adamant that existing rules are necessary to prevent and catch fraud and mismanagement. Lerner also argued that requiring receipts for all purchases, regardless of price, was needed to prevent exploitation and maintain accountability for all parties. Lerner’s arguments were supported by the NSB finding that although there has been an increase in compliance and administrative regulations, the 42 percent time allotment for extramural administration has remained constant since 2005.

The other witnesses emphasized that the current system needs to be streamlined. They advocated for establishing a group to review existing grant programs to look for ways to eliminate duplicate and unnecessary requirements. This, they said, would be in concert with the Office of Management and Budget's current goal of ensuring uniform guidance across all federal programs. One effect, they said, of the current regulatory environment is a chilling effect on students pursuing academic careers, with many research students switching to non-academic careers.

To read the prepared testimony or view the hearing video, click here.

$75 million available in new GEAR UP competition

The Education Department announced June 3 that it is beginning a new $75 million competition for two GEAR UP programs (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for
Undergraduate Programs.) Applications are due July 7 for grants to be awarded by the end of September. For more information on the solicitation, click here.

The program focuses on building successful practices aimed at improving college fit and college readiness for underrepresented, underprepared and low-income students across the country. The intention is to help students graduate from high school prepared for college without needing remedial courses and to aid them in enrolling in an institution that will help them maximize their success.

The Department is tailoring this year’s GEAR UP grants to focus on projects that are designed to serve and coordinate with a Promise Zone -- high-poverty communities where the federal government has partnered and invested to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, and improve public safety. This year's GEAR UP program also places a priority on helping to improve students’ non-cognitive skills and behaviors, including academic mindset, perseverance, motivation, and mastery of social and emotional skills that improve student success.

Academy report examines STEM integration in education

The National Academy of Engineering has recently released a new report, STEM Integration in K 12 Education, examining current efforts to connect the STEM disciplines in K-12 education.

The report identifies existing approaches to integrated STEM education, both in formal and out-of-school settings. The report reviews the evidence for the impact of integrated approaches on various student outcomes, and it proposes a set of priority research questions to advance the understanding of integrated STEM education. The document proposes a framework to provide a common perspective and vocabulary for researchers, practitioners, and others to identify, discuss, and investigate specific integrated STEM initiatives within the K-12 education system of the United States.

STEM Integration in K-12 Education makes recommendations for designers of integrated STEM experiences, assessment developers, and researchers to design and document effective integrated STEM education. To read the report, click here.

NIH opens public 3D printing site for researchers and students

The National Institutes of Health today has launched its “NIH 3D Print Exchange” -- a public website for researchers and students that enables users to share, download and edit 3D print files related to health and science.
"3D printing is a potential game changer for medical research," said NIH Director Francis S. Collins. "At NIH, we have seen an incredible return on investment; pennies' worth of plastic have helped investigators address important scientific questions while saving time and money. We hope that the 3D Print Exchange will expand interest and participation in this new and exciting field among scientists, educators and students."

These files can be used to print custom laboratory equipment and models of bacteria and human anatomy. NIH uses 3D printing, or the creation of a physical object from a digital model, to study viruses, repair and enhance lab apparatus, and help plan medical procedures. The 3D Print Exchange makes these types of files freely available, along with video tutorials for new users and a discussion forum to promote collaboration. The site also features tools that convert scientific and clinical data into ready-to-print 3D files. For more information, visit <http://3dprint.nih.gov/>

**NSF and NIH collaborate for new I-Corps program in biomedical research**

A new collaboration between the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health will give NIH-funded researchers training to help them evaluate their scientific discoveries for commercial potential, with the aim of accelerating biomedical innovations into applied health technologies.

I-Corps at NIH <http://sbir.cancer.gov/resource/icorps/> is a pilot of the NSF Innovation Corps <http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/i-corps/> (I-Corps) program specially tailored for biomedical research. Academic researchers and entrepreneurs with Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) < http://www.sbir.gov/> Phase I awards from participating NIH institutes will be eligible to apply to I-Corps at NIH. A webinar on the effort will be sponsored by NIH on July 2.

The I-Corps Teams curriculum is a nine-week boot camp in which experienced business-savvy instructors work closely with teams of researchers to help them explore potential markets for their federally funded innovations. I-Corps instructors take a scientific method-based approach to customer discovery that resonates with scientists and engineers. While I-Corps instructors typically have a wide range of expertise, I-Corps at NIH will be taught by instructors who have biomedical business experience.

**Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies**

**Agency:** National Science Foundation
Division of Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation

**Program:** Decision Frameworks for Multi-Hazard Resilient and Sustainable Buildings
**Description:** The goal of the Decision Frameworks for Multi-Hazard Resilient and Sustainable Buildings grant is to advance knowledge for new concepts for multi-hazard resilient and sustainable building systems using decision frameworks for selection among alternative building system designs.

**Due Date:** 7/24/2014

**Funding:**
- Estimated Total Program Funding: $9,000,000
- Award Ceiling: $1,200,000


**Agency:**
Department of Defense
Air Force Office of Scientific Research

**Program:** Air Force Fiscal Year 2015 Young Investigator Research Program

**Description:** The objective of this program is to foster creative basic research in science and engineering, enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators, and increase opportunities for the young investigators to recognize the Air Force mission and the related challenges in science and engineering. AFOSR is seeking unclassified proposals addressing the research areas of interest for the Air Force Research Laboratory.

**Due Date:** 9/15/2014

**Funding:**
- Estimated Total Program Funding: $14,400,000
- Award Ceiling: $450,000


**Agency:**
Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

**Program:** Center for Best Practices to Support Single Parent Students

**Description:** The purpose of this grant is to support a Center for Best Practices to Support Single Parent Students, to study and develop best practices for institutions of higher education to support single parents who are also students attending these institutions.

**Due Date:** 7/21/2014

**Funding:**
- Estimated Total Program Funding: $495,000
- Award Ceiling: $495,000

Agency: Department of Education  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)  

Program: Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program  

Description: The purpose of this announcement is intended to support innovative programs that promote early literacy for young children, motivate older children to read, and increase student achievement by using school libraries as partners to improve literacy, distributing free books to children and their families, and offering high-quality literacy activities.  

Due Date: 7/17/2014  
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $24,341,646  

Agency: Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)  

Program: Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program  

Description: This grant is intended for planning, developing, and carrying out programs to strengthen and improve undergraduate instruction in international studies and foreign languages in the United States.  

Due Date: 7/28/2014  
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $2,928,529  
Award Ceiling: $95,000  

Agency: Department of Education  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)  

Program: Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers  

Description: The purpose of this opportunity is to plan and conduct research, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society of individuals with disabilities.  

Due Date: 8/11/2014  
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $875,000  
Award Ceiling: $875,000  
**Agency:** Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

**Program:** Language Resource Centers Program

**Description:** This opportunity provides funds to institutions of higher education or consortia of these institutions for establishing, strengthening, and operating centers that serve as resources for improving the Nation’s capacity for teaching and learning foreign languages through teacher training, research, materials development, and dissemination projects.

**Due Date:** 7/9/2014

**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $2,746,768


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**Agency:** Department of Education  
OSERS/NIDRR: Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program

**Program:** Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERCs): Technologies to Enhance Independence in Daily Living for Adults with Cognitive Impairments

**Description:** The purpose of this opportunity to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities.

**Due Date:** 8/4/2014

**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $950,000  
Award Ceiling: $950,000


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**Agency:** Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

**Program:** Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (Partnership Grants)

**Description:** The GEAR UP Program is a discretionary grant program that provides funding for academic and related support services to eligible low-income students, including students with disabilities, to help them obtain a secondary school diploma and to prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education.
Due Date: 7/7/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $37,762,760
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=256631

Agency: Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)
Program: Center for International Business Education Program
Description: The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to institutions of higher education or consortia of such institutions for curriculum development, research, and training on issues of importance to U.S trade and competitiveness.

Due Date: 7/3/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $4,571,400
Award Ceiling: $365,000
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=256536

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Global Approaches Targeting Adverse Pregnancy and Neonatal Outcomes Utilizing Existing Cohorts (R01)
Description: The purpose of this announcement is to invite applications utilizing state of the science "Omics" technologies (such as genomics epigenomics, proteomics, and metabolomics), coupled to powerful bioinformatics tools, to target important pregnancy and neonatal health problems by using existing cohorts.

Due Date: 10/7/2016
Funding: See announcement
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=258152

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: NIMH Supplement Program to Enable Continuity of Research Experiences of MD/PhDs during Clinical Training (Admin Supp)
Description: The purpose of this opportunity is to support advanced research opportunities for exceptional individuals holding the MD/PhD degree who
are early in their research careers and helping these individuals transition efficiently and effectively from the period of clinical training to the next stage of their research careers. This administrative supplement program will provide focused, protected research time for eligible individuals during residency and/or clinical fellowship.

**Due Date:** 4/1/2017  
**Funding:** See announcement  

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health  
**Program:** Improving Diabetes Management in Young Children with Type 1 Diabetes (DP3)  
**Description:** The goal of this announcement is to support research to develop, refine, and pilot test innovative strategies to improve diabetes management in young children with type 1 diabetes (5 years old and under). At the end of the funding period, there should be a well-developed and well-characterized intervention that has been demonstrated to be safe, feasible to implement, acceptable in the target population, and, if promising, ready to be tested in a larger efficacy trial.  
**Due Date:** 3/18/2015  
**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $3,500,000  

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health  
**Program:** Long-Term Outcomes of Bariatric Surgery Using Large Datasets (R01)  
**Description:** This opportunity will support applications that address the long-term (five-year minimum) clinical outcomes of bariatric surgery using large datasets within healthcare delivery organizations. Clinical outcomes of interest to NIDDK include obesity, body composition and obesity-related complications within the NIDDK mission such as diabetes, metabolic liver disease, kidney and urological diseases.  
**Due Date:** 6/3/2015  
**Funding:** See announcement  
**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families - ACYF/CB

**Program:** Quality Improvement Center for Research-Based Infant-Toddler Court Teams

**Description:** This grant will provide technical assistance and implement projects to fully develop and expand research-based child welfare infant-toddler court teams. The QIC will provide technical assistance and conduct projects in collaboration with the courts; state, county, or tribal child welfare systems; and other community-based agencies to increase their capacity to incorporate evidence-based practices to strengthen parenting and promote healthy development for infants and toddlers involved with child welfare.

**Due Date:** 8/1/2014

**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $3,000,000
Award Ceiling: $3,000,000


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**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Interventions for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Native American Populations (R01)

**Description:** The purpose of this grant is to develop, adapt, and test the effectiveness of health promotion and disease prevention interventions in Native American populations.

**Due Date:** 8/24/2017

**Funding:** See announcement


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**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program (P42)

**Description:** These grants will support problem-based, solution-oriented research Centers that consist of multiple, integrated projects representing both the biomedical and environmental science and engineering disciplines; as well as cores tasked with administrative, community engagement, research translation, training, and research support functions.
**Due Date:** 9/3/2014  
**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $8,500,000  

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
**National Institutes of Health**  
**Program:** Innovative Approaches for the Identification of Mitochondria-Cell Signaling Networks in Response to Environmental Stress  
**Description:** This opportunity supports the development of technologies and experimental models to more precisely track signaling between the mitochondria and other cellular processes under environmental stress conditions, including mitochondrial-nuclear signaling with respect to epigenetic regulation, DNA damage response, or response to oxidative stress.

**Due Date:** 9/15/2014  
**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $3,000,000  

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
**National Institutes of Health**  
**Program:** Mentored Career Development Award to Build Research Capacity in Global Mental Health (K01)  
**Description:** The purpose of this grant is to provide support and "protected time" (three to five years) for an intensive, supervised career development experience that will facilitate the entry of early career investigators into the field of global mental health research and lead to research independence.

**Due Date:** 10/29/2014  
**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $750,000  

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
**National Institutes of Health**  
**Program:** NIMH Biobehavioral Research Awards for Innovative New Scientists (NIMH BRAINS) (R01)
**Description:** This grant is intended to support the research and research career development of outstanding, exceptionally productive scientists who are in the early, formative stages of their careers and who plan to make a long term career commitment to research

**Due Date:** 10/24/2016

**Funding:**
- Estimated Total Program Funding: $3,000,000
- Award Ceiling: $400,000


**Agency:**
- Department of Health and Human Services
- National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Multidisciplinary Studies of HIV and Viral Hepatitis Co-Infection (R01)

**Description:** The purpose of this announcement is to fill gaps in our understanding of the pathogenic interactions between HIV and hepatitis viruses, co-morbidities associated with HIV/hepatitis virus co-infection, and the effectiveness of interferon-free direct-acting antiviral drug regimens to treat HIV/HCV co-infection.

**Due Date:** 5/7/2017

**Funding:** See announcement


**Agency:**
- Department of Health and Human Services
- National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Multidisciplinary Studies of HIV and Viral Hepatitis Co-Infection (R21)

**Description:** The purpose of this grant is to fill gaps in our understanding of the pathogenic interactions between HIV and hepatitis viruses, co-morbidities associated with HIV/hepatitis virus co-infection, and the effectiveness of interferon-free direct-acting antiviral drug regimens to treat HIV/HCV co-infection.

**Due Date:** 5/7/2017

**Funding:**
- Estimated Total Program Funding: $275,000
- Award Ceiling: $275,000


**Agency:**
- Department of Health and Human Services
- National Institutes of Health
Program: Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Research and Translation Core Centers (P30)
Description: This grant is intended to be used for Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Research and Translation Core Centers to support both basic and clinical research on PKD
Due Date: 11/20/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $4,400,000
Award Ceiling: $750,000

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Research Using Biosamples From Selected Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Studies (DP3)
Description: This opportunity invites applications for ancillary studies using archived samples from selected diabetes clinical trials and studies. Ancillary studies are expected to generate scientific discoveries on type 1 diabetes primary pathogenesis or the pathogenesis of complications, and biomarkers of disease progression or clinical responses to interventions.
Due Date: 11/20/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $4,000,000

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Research Supplements for Aging Research on Health Disparities (Admin Supp)
Description: This opportunity announces the availability of administrative supplements to support research that addresses disparities in aging and health, including preclinical, clinical and behavioral studies.
Due Date: 8/4/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $250,000
Award Ceiling: $62,500
Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

Program: Research Using Subjects From Selected Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Studies (Living Biobank) (DP3)

Description: This announcement invites applications for ancillary studies that use subjects enrolled in (or screened for participation in) the Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet clinical trials network, or for ancillary studies that use subjects enrolled in the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial/Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications.

Due Date: 11/20/2014

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $7,000,000

Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=257428

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
Food & Drug Administration

Program: FDA Scientific Conference Grant Program (R13/U13)

Description: The purpose of this grant is to facilitate small conferences and scientific meetings relevant to its mission and to the public health. A small conference or scientific meeting is defined as a symposium, seminar, workshop, or any formal meeting, whether conducted face-to-face or virtually to exchange information and explore a defined subject, issue, or area of concern impacting the public's health within the scope of the FDA's mission.

Due Date: 6/16/2017

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A
Award Ceiling: N/A

Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=257228

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

Program: Specialized Alcohol Research Centers (P50)

Description: This announcement invites applications for specialized Alcohol Research Centers using the P50 mechanism. The overall purpose of the NIAAA Alcohol Research Center program is to provide leadership in conducting and fostering interdisciplinary, collaborative research on a wide variety of topics.

Due Date: 12/3/2014
**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $7,400,000
Award Ceiling: $1,800,000


**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Comprehensive Alcohol Research Centers (P60)

**Description:** This announcement invites applications for Comprehensive Alcohol Research Centers using the P60 mechanism that must include an information dissemination core to initiate and expand community education, related to the overall goal of the center. The overall purpose of the NIAAA Alcohol Research Center program is to provide leadership in conducting and fostering interdisciplinary, collaborative research on a wide variety of topics.

**Due Date:** 12/3/2014

**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $7,400,000
Award Ceiling: $2,000,000


**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families

**Program:** Early Head Start Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnership Grants

**Description:** This announcement seeks to award approximately $500 million for the purpose of expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families through Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnerships, or through the expansion of Early Head Start services.

**Due Date:** 8/20/2014

**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $650,000,000
Award Ceiling: $54,933,590


**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Developing and Improving Institutional Animal Resources (G20)
**Description:** This grant encourages applications from biomedical research institutions to seek funding to modernize and improve individual animal research facilities. Support can also be requested to upgrade animal care equipment in the facility.

**Due Date:** 8/1/2014

**Funding:** See announcement
Award Ceiling: $500,000


**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Administrative Supplements for the U.S.-Japan Brain Research Cooperative Program (BRCP) - U.S. Entity (Administrative Supplement)

**Description:** This administrative grant will provide funds to research projects that are currently supported by the participating NIH Institutes and Centers. The purpose of the BRCP is to promote scientist exchange, training, and collaborations in basic, translational and clinical research between neuroscientists from the U.S. and Japan.

**Due Date:** 9/2/2016

**Funding:** See announcement
Award Ceiling: $50,000


**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Basic Research on HIV Persistence (R21)

**Description:** This announcement invites Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant (R21) applications for hypothesis-driven basic research to increase our understanding of persistent HIV-1 infection in patients under highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART).

**Due Date:** 1/7/2017

**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $2,000,000
Award Ceiling: $200,000

**Program:** Basic Research on HIV Persistence (R01)
**Due Date:** 1/7/2017
**Funding:** Estimated Total Program Funding: $3,500,000

**Program:** Research on Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions (R21)
**Due Date:** 9/7/2017
**Funding:** See announcement
**Award Ceiling:** $200,000

**Program:** The Use of Polyethylene Glycol in the Pediatric Population (R01)
**Due Date:** 7/15/2014
**Funding:** See announcement
**Award Ceiling:** $325,000
Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

Program: Translational Programs in Lung Diseases (P01)
Description: This announcement invites submission of Program Project applications from institutions/organizations that will perform collaborative, translational research with the goal of using mechanistic research as the basis for the rational design of clinical applications to improve prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of lung diseases and sleep disorders.
Due Date: 5/19/2017
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $1,750,000
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=256594

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Role of the Microflora in the Etiology of Gastro-Intestinal Cancer (R01)
Description: This grant encourages innovative multidisciplinary research projects that will advance our mechanistic understanding of microflora influences on Gastro-Intestinal (GI) carcinogenesis.
Due Date: 3/3/2017
Funding: See announcement
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=256537

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Research on Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions (R01)
Description: The purpose of this announcement is to encourage epidemiological, clinical and translational research that will increase our understanding of the natural history, prevalence, biological mechanisms, psychological variables, and clinical risk factors responsible for the presence of multiple chronic pain conditions in people with pain.
Due Date: 9/7/2017
Funding: See announcement
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=256632
**Agency:** Department of Justice  
Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention  

**Program:** OJJDP FY 2014 Studies Program on Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice  

**Description:** This purpose of this grant is to sponsor small studies and/or secondary analyses of existing data to provide objective, independent knowledge about the extent and impact of ethnic disparities effecting Hispanic/Latino youth’s contact with the juvenile justice system.  

**Due Date:** 7/21/2014  

**Funding:** See announcement  
Award Ceiling: $50,000  


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**Agency:** Department of State  
U.S. Mission to India  

**Program:** U.S. Consulate Hyderabad Workshop for Bloggers on Global Issues and Challenges  

**Description:** The U.S. Consulate General Public Affairs Section in Hyderabad, India is soliciting cooperative agreement/grant proposals to familiarize Indian journalists and bloggers with the possibilities and techniques of using blogging to provide in-depth coverage of complex global issues and challenges.  

**Due Date:** 7/23/2014  

**Funding:** See announcement  
Award Ceiling: $65,000  


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**Agency:** Department of State  
U.S. Mission to China  

**Program:** American Cultural Centers and Cultural Programming in the People's Republic of China  

**Description:** Funding will be used to create an American Cultural Center (ACC) through an existing partnership with a Chinese institution and/or comprehensive U.S. cultural-related programming at space provided by a Chinese partner institution as needed.  

**Due Date:** 8/11/2014  

**Funding:** See announcement  
Award Ceiling: $100,000  

Agency: Department of State
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affair

Program: Justice and Youth Programs

Description: This announcement seeks proposals to increase citizen security by developing an integrated database for the Judiciary that permits the identification of minors involved in legal proceedings. The database include juvenile criminal cases and facilitate the easy user-generation of reports.

Due Date: 7/11/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $1,600,000\ Award Ceiling: N/A
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=256810

Agency: Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Program: Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities, Ladders of Opportunity Program

Description: This announcement is to solicit project proposals for Bus and Bus Facilities Program, Ladders of Opportunity Initiative.

Due Date: 8/4/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: $100,000,000
Award Ceiling: $100,000,000
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=256836

Agency: National Endowment for the Arts

Program: NEA GAP: Art Works II, FY 2015

Description: This opportunity will support projects that achieve the following four outcomes: Creation: The creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, Engagement: Public engagement with diverse and excellent art, Learning: Lifelong learning in the arts, and Livability: The strengthening of communities through the arts.

Due Date: 7/24/2014
Funding: See announcement
Award Ceiling: $100,000
Website:  http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=257409

Agency:  National Endowment for the Humanities

Program:  Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations
Description:  Grants will be used to support the following formats: exhibitions at museums, libraries, and other venues; interpretations of historic places, sites, or regions; and book/film discussion programs; living history presentations; and other face-to-face programs at libraries, community centers, and other public venues. NEH encourages projects that explore humanities ideas through multiple formats.

Due Date:  8/13/2014
Funding:  See announcement
Award Ceiling: $1,000,000
Website:  http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=257630

Agency:  National Endowment for the Humanities

Program:  Media Projects
Description:  This opportunity welcomes projects ranging in length from short-form to broadcast-length video. Radio projects may involve single programs, limited series, or segments within an ongoing program. They may also develop new humanities content to augment existing radio programming or add greater historical background or humanities analysis to the subjects of existing programs. Programs must be intended for national distribution.

Due Date:  8/13/2014
Funding:  See announcement
Award Ceiling: $1,000,000
Website:  http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=257433

Agency:  National Endowment for the Humanities

Program:  Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges
Description:  NEH Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges grants are intended to strengthen and enrich humanities education and scholarship at community colleges or community college systems. Grants are used to enhance the
humanities content of existing programs, develop new programs, or lay the foundation for more extensive endeavors in the future.

Due Date: 8/21/2014
Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A
Award Ceiling: $120,000
Website: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=257429