



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

FY2019 Appropriations Priorities STATE, FOREIGN OPS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities.

With a membership of 237 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement.

Annually, its 196 U.S. member campuses enroll 4 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.8 billion in university-based research.

APLU
1307 New York Avenue NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
p: 202.478.6040
www.aplu.org

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

Higher Education Institutional Capacity Development Partnerships

APLU FY2019 Request: \$35 million

(New higher education partnerships: FY2019 PBR = N/A; FY2018 = \$35M; FY2017 = \$35M)

Bill Language Request:

“not less than \$260,000,000 shall be made available for assistance for higher education, including not less than \$35,000,000 for new partnerships between developing nation and U.S. higher education institutions focused on building the capacity of developing nation higher education institutions.”

For FY2019, APLU requests \$35 million for new partnerships between U.S. universities and developing countries with a focus on building the institutional capacity of higher education in developing nations. Colleges and universities are engines for developing human capital. Institutions of higher education educate tens of thousands of people who occupy key positions of leadership in their countries: scientists, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, doctors, healthcare workers, government administrators, policy makers, and other professionals. No country can develop these human resources without effective institutions of higher education. If the goal of foreign assistance is to foster locally-owned, locally-led and locally-sustained development, developing countries need investment in their educational institutions at all levels – not just primary and secondary. A recent paper of the National Bureau of Economic Research¹ measuring “the university effect” in 78 countries over the past five decades found the effect to be significant: a doubling of the number of universities is associated with a four percent higher gross domestic product per capita, even after controlling for reverse-causality. In other words, the data show that higher education institutions foster economic growth in the regions that surround them, and that investments in higher education benefit not just the individuals who receive the education, but also the broader society in which those people live and work.

With \$35 million, we envision the creation of a university-to-university partnership program with a focus on reform and capacity strengthening of the developing country higher education institutions and systems. The program should allocate sufficient resources (\$5 million per year) to each partnership and should be structured to allow for the partnership to be sustained for a sufficient amount of time to drive real and meaningful institutional change (10 years). Engagement of U.S. partners through an open competition should be structured in a way that allows for holistic engagement with institutions and systems to drive the administrative and governance reforms needed in the sector to address access, quality and relevance challenges.

¹ National Bureau of Economic Research. “The Economic Impact of Universities: Evidence from Across the Globe.” Anna Valero, John Van Reenen. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w22501>. Working Paper 22501. August 2016.

APLU FY2019 STATE, FOREIGN OPS APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES (con't)

Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Labs

APLU FY2019 Request: \$60 Million

(FY2019 PBR = N/A; FY2018 = \$55M; FY2017 = \$50M)

APLU requests \$60 million for all 25 Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Labs. Innovation Labs are a two-for-one investment. They solve critical agricultural problems that impact food security and poverty through research conducted collaboratively between U.S. and developing country students and scientists while also enabling developing countries to build the capacity to solve their own problems in the future. More than 60 U.S. universities throughout the nation are engaged in the Labs. This global engagement increases the reach of U.S. research institutions, creates linkages that facilitate U.S. economic ties with developing countries and fosters economic growth in developing countries that benefits their economy and ours. The Innovation Labs are tackling the world's most challenging agricultural development problems and sharing scientific knowledge throughout the developing world on issues such as productivity, yield, climate resiliency, and human nutrition. To remove dependency on development assistance it is essential for developing countries to have a workforce of well-educated citizens to enable the transition to independent economic growth.

“Challenge of Change” Food Security Priorities

Report Language Request:

“By 2050 global food production must be 60 percent higher than it was in 2014. This level of production must be achieved within the context of growing environmental problems, water demands, energy costs, and issues related to the distribution, utilization, and waste of food. A number of reports have called attention to the significant future challenges we face. Several agencies and departments of the federal government are and will be implicated in addressing our future food security challenges. Currently, however, there is no shared vision and means of collaboration within the federal government to help achieve both domestic and global food security. It is the sense of the Committee that the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the White House should convene, as they have for other projects, an effort to align our domestic and global efforts related to food security. USAID and USDA should play a leadership role with OSTP and there should be deep involvement of the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy and all other pertinent departments and agencies.”