



ASSOCIATION OF  
PUBLIC &  
LAND-GRANT  
UNIVERSITIES

**ABOUT THE  
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC  
AND LAND-GRANT  
UNIVERSITIES**

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is an association of more than 238 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses annually enroll 4.8 million undergraduate and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, and conduct \$41.4 billion in university-based research. Collectively, they demonstrate the power and the good of public universities.

As the nation's oldest higher education association, APLU is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. For more information, visit [www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)

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## **FY2016 Appropriations Priorities**

### **INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

#### **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)**

**APLU FY2016 Request: \$155 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$147.9M; FY2015 = \$146M; FY2014 = \$146M)

The NEH is the lead federal agency focused on the development and support of scholarship in the humanities. NEH is a vital source of funds for scholars and researchers whose work helps citizens and policy-makers alike better understand and address the social, economic, political and cultural challenges facing our nation and world today.

APLU urges Congress to fund the NEH at \$155 million, including increased support for the competitive core programs. NEH grants are awarded on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to organizations and institutions in every U.S. state and territory. Many grants provide significant leveraging of nonfederal funds through matching requirements.

#### **U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)**

##### **Water Resources Research Institutes (WRRIs)**

**APLU FY2016 Request: \$8.8 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$6.5M; FY2015 = \$6.5M; FY2014 = \$6.5M)

The WRRIs are essential to solving state, regional and inter-jurisdictional water resources problems with federal funding serving as the driving force of collaboration in water research and education. WRRIs contribute significantly in emergency planning and hurricane recovery, protecting groundwater aquifers from sea water intrusion and reducing water treatment costs. The institutes also train the next generation of water resources managers and scientists.

##### **Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Units (CRUs)**

**APLU FY2016 Request: \$20 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$20M; FY2015 = \$17.4M; FY2014 = \$17.4M)

The CRUs consist of 40 Units in 38 states and are true federal-state-university-private partnerships. The Units target the interface of science and management and are crucial to successfully addressing the natural resource management challenges of the nation. They also train the next generation of natural resource professionals grounding them in science while giving them a management-orientation with experience at the private, state, and federal levels.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**

##### **Office of Science and Technology**

**APLU FY2016 Request: \$769 million**

(FY2016 PBR = \$769M; FY2015 = \$735M; FY2014 = \$759M)

APLU advocates for \$769 million for the EPA Office of S&T, a critical funder of grants to increase our understanding of the risks to human health and ecosystems, and to develop innovative solutions to these problems. Within EPA S&T, APLU strongly supports the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, which competitively funds research grants and graduate fellowships in environmental science and engineering disciplines.