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UNIVERSITIES**

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APLU member campuses in the U.S. annually enroll 4 million undergraduate and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1 million degrees, employ 1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.2 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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# FY2017 Appropriations Priorities

## INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

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

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$155 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$150M; FY2016 = \$148M; FY2015 = \$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. This increase will help NEH rebuild its capacity to support humanities research. 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 FY2017 Request: \$9 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$6.5M; FY2016 = \$6.5M; FY2015 = \$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 leverage federal funds to address a range of water-related issues, ranging from drought mitigation and emergency management to protecting aquifers and reducing water treatment costs. The institutes also train the next generation of water resources managers and scientists. Water troubles and difficulties continue to challenge our society and have far-reaching impacts for human health, food production, and even fundamental trust in our governments. Increased support for the WRRIs will help fund needed additional research to address these important challenges.

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

##### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$20 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$18.2M; FY2016 = \$17.4M; FY2015 = \$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 FY2017 Request: \$754 million**

(FY2017 PBR = \$754M; FY2016 = \$735M; FY2015 = \$735M)

APLU advocates for \$754 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.