ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (A•P•L•U) is an association of over 230 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems. APLU member campuses enroll more than 4.4 million undergraduate and 1.3 million graduate students, employ more than 1.3 million faculty members, and conduct academic research totaling more than $41 billion annually.

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

FY2015 Appropriations Priorities
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

APLU is part of the broad business, university and science community concerned about cuts and stagnating federal funding in science and research at a time when other nations are increasing their research investments. We believe the FY2015 CJS Appropriations bill must work to close this innovation deficit with reasonable increases in key accounts, as described below. These investments will develop the ideas, the people, and the innovations that power our economy, create jobs, improve health and strengthen our national security, ensuring that the U.S. maintains its role as global leader. Additionally, the growth supported by this innovation will help the nation address its fiscal challenges.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)
APLU Request: at least $7.5 billion
(FY2015 PBR = $7.255B; FY2014 = $7.172B; FY2013 = $6.901B)

The NSF funds merit-based research across disciplines and supports science, math and engineering education across the country, including at APLU universities in all 50 states. As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, funding scientific research should be a priority. Robust NSF funding is necessary to ensure we close the innovation deficit and build a better America as science and technological advances are the foundation of our nation’s economic growth and aid in our national defense.

APLU supports a request of at least $7.5 billion for FY2015 for the National Science Foundation (NSF), an agency key to the development of new innovations and our national economic competitiveness. A $7.5 billion funding level would simply be keeping pace with inflation from FY2012; this is an increase from the president’s request and represents the minimum level this important agency should be funded.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMIN (NASA)

Science Mission Directorate
APLU Request: $5.25 billion
(FY2015 PBR = $4.97B; FY2014 = $5.15B; FY2013 = $5.14B*)

The NASA Science Mission Directorate is an essential part of meeting the growing challenges to fully understand global changes to the Earth and answer fundamental questions regarding the universe through space exploration. NASA Science includes Earth Science, Planetary Science, Astrophysics, the James Webb Space Telescope and Heliophysics. APLU recommends funding of $5.25 billion for NASA Science in FY2015, a slight increase over FY2014 and an increase over the president’s request. We also recommend the following levels for other important NASA Directorates:

Aeronautics Research Directorate
APLU Request: $577 million
(FY2015 PBR = $551M; FY2014=$566M; FY2013 = $570M*)

Space Technology Directorate
APLU Request: $706 million
(FY2015 PBR = $706M; FY2014 = $576M; FY2013 = $642M*)

National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program
APLU Request: $40 million
(FY2015 PBR = $24M; FY2014 = $40M; FY2013 = $40M*)
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)
APLU Request: $462 million
(FY2015 PBR = $462M; FY2014 = $416M; FY2013= $369M)

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) provides the research foundation for understanding the complex systems that support our planet. NOAA funds crucial science related to our oceans and atmosphere that provides decision makers with critically important data and services which enhance the nation's economy, security, and environment.

APLU supports $462 million for NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) in FY2015.

NOAA National Sea Grant College Program
APLU Request: $80 million
(FY2015 PBR = $63.4M; FY2014 = $63M; FY2013= $57M)

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a nationwide network of 32 university-based programs that work with coastal communities. Sea Grant engages this network of the nation’s top universities in conducting scientific research, education, training, and extension projects designed to foster science-based decisions about the use and conservation of our aquatic resources. The program addresses national priorities at the local level, while identifying citizens’ needs to help guide state and national research agendas.

APLU urges Congress to provide $80 million for the National Sea Grant College Program in FY2015. This recommended funding level includes $10 million for an enhanced Sea Grant Community Resilience and America’s Working Coast initiative that is consistent with NOAA’s strategic plan.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST)
Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP)
APLU Request: $141 million
(FY2015 PBR = $141M; FY2014 = $128M; FY2013 = $128.5M*)

The Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP) focuses on increasing the competitiveness of the U.S. industrial base in every state by acting as a catalyst for strengthening American manufacturing helping transformation the sector into a more efficient and powerful engine of innovation. The MEP centers are non-profit, university or state-based organizations which provide manufacturers with an array of services that focus on growth, productivity, and efficiency. APLU urges Congress to fund the MEP program in FY2015 at the requested level of $141 million.

*FY2013 appropriated amounts, pre-across-the-board cuts to achieve ATRA budget caps AND pre-sequester cuts