



September 21, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young,

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), we urge you to increase scientific research and higher education investments that are crucial to the health, security, prosperity, and future of our nation in the Biden-Harris administration's FY24 budget.

We are mindful of, and commend the administration for, its efforts to secure passage of the CHIPS and Science Act (H.R. 4346) as well as the Inflation Reduction Act (H.R. 5376). Both have bearing on the administration's FY24 budget for research. The bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act is a monumental policy achievement for America's scientific research enterprise, but, while it contains appropriations for the CHIPS provisions, it does not contain funding for the science provisions. If funded, the CHIPS and Science Act will bolster America's status as the world's leader in scientific research and innovation despite increasing global competition. Now is the time to fulfill the full promise of the legislation. The Inflation Reduction Act is also a significant achievement toward boosting investment in clean energy and climate research. Our nation's research universities look forward to continuing to develop innovative solutions to climate change and to do our part to help the world meet this unprecedented challenge.

We deeply appreciate the administration's support for doubling the maximum Pell Grant and commitment to make steady progress in furtherance of the goal, which would make college more accessible and affordable for more low-income students. The American people overwhelmingly support doubling the Pell Grant maximum annual award; an [AAU poll](#) from September 2021 found that more than two-thirds of Americans support this investment in our nation's students and next generation competitive workforce.

Even as you prepare the FY24 budget, we are mindful that Congress has not yet completed the FY23 appropriations process. We urge the administration's continued engagement with Congress to finish the job and cement with appropriations the FY23 authorization levels in the CHIPS and Science Act for key research agencies; build on the advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and climate research investments included in the Inflation Reduction Act; and make significant progress toward doubling the maximum Pell grant.

Innovating for the Future

We urge the administration to double down in FY24 on its past budget proposals to strengthen our nation's scientific research and innovation capacity through the government-university partnership. For

the last seven decades, research universities have partnered with the federal government and the private sector to create the technologies that have driven the American economy and to train the world's best scientists, doctors, engineers, and entrepreneurs. Sustaining investment growth in these areas is crucial to ensuring the United States does not lose its status as the global leader in science and innovation and to strengthening our economic competitiveness and national security.

We wholeheartedly agree, as [outlined](#) in the administration's research and development priorities for the FY24 budget, that federal funding for R&D is "essential to maximize the benefits of science and technology that advance health, tackle the climate crisis, and bring prosperity, security, environmental quality, and justice for all Americans."

In support of your agenda, we urge that the administration's FY24 budget make strong investments in key federal science and research agencies, including:

- National Institutes of Health and ARPA-H;
- National Science Foundation;
- Department of Energy's Office of Science and ARPA-E;
- Department of Defense's Science and Technology programs and DARPA;
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- National Endowment for the Humanities;
- Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (particularly agriculture research, capacity building, and extension programs);
- Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Institute of Standards and Technology;
- Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences; and
- U.S. Agency for International Development – particularly the Feed the Future Innovation Labs and Higher Education Programs.

Building Broad-Based Economic Prosperity Through Higher Education

Additionally, we urge that the administration's FY24 budget include significant investments in student financial aid to help fully open the doors to college to more Americans and to prepare the next-generation workforce. Specifically, we urge you to include another significant increase to the Pell Grant maximum award to take another step toward doubling the Pell Grant, consistent with President Biden's stated goal.

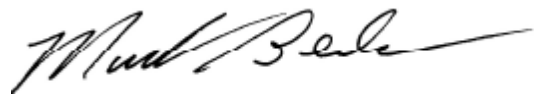
We also urge greater investments in Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, TRIO programs, GEAR UP programs, Title III and V programs that support HBCUs and MSIs, and other critical Department of Education student aid programs. These programs provide students access to high-quality higher education, facilitate pathways to success and degree completion, and help promote greater equity and inclusion. We also appreciate the administration's sustained focus on funding for student success and college completion. As the U.S. Department of Education moves forward with implementing the newly created Postsecondary Student Success Program this fall, we encourage the administration to include robust funding for this program in its FY24 budget.

Further, we ask that the administration's FY24 budget include robust funding levels for graduate education and the Department of Education's Title VI international education programs. For graduate education, we urge increased investment across federal agencies with graduate fellowship and

traineeship programs, including the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program, which assists talented students studying in areas such as STEM. The Title VI (domestic) and Fulbright-Hays (overseas) programs are the federal government's most comprehensive programs for developing national capacity in foreign language and area studies expertise. These programs are important to our nation's security and competitiveness because they are the primary training system for producing linguistically proficient, area-savvy graduates who go on to successful careers in government, military, academia, and business.

In closing, we thank you and the administration for your efforts to foster a successful government- university partnership and to make higher education more accessible and affordable. This is critical to keeping the United States at the forefront of cutting-edge research and innovation and to the education of a highly skilled workforce. If we can provide any additional information or assistance, please contact us or Craig Lindwarm (clindwarm@aplu.org) and Matt Owens (matt.owens@aau.edu).

Sincerely,



Mark Becker
President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities



Barbara R. Snyder
President
Association of American Universities

cc: Lloyd J. Austin, Secretary, Department of Defense
Miguel Cardona, Secretary, Department of Education
Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary, Department of Energy
Shelly C. Lowe, Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities
Alondra Nelson, Acting Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
Bill Nelson, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Laurie E. Locascio, Director, National Institutes of Standards and Technology
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Samantha Power, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development
Richard W. Spinrad, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Lawrence A. Tabak, Acting Director, National Institutes of Health
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture