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Each year, the New York University Office of Government & Community Affairs sends a formal programmatic request to Members of Congress in support of the core federal programs that provide financial assistance to students and research funding to faculty and researchers. Top priorities include an increased federal commitment to the core student aid programs, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the DOE Office of Science, the Department of Education Institute of Education Science (IES), Title VII Health Professions Programs, Department of Defense (DOD) Research (6.1) programs and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Here is summary of the NYU fiscal year 2010 federal funding request:

Federal Student Aid Programs

NYU and the higher education community support a wide range of student aid programs funded by the Department of Education, including Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG) Federal Work-Study, LEAP, TRIO, and GEAR UP. Sustaining America's competitiveness requires that an increasing share of the workforce hold undergraduate or advanced degrees. Moreover, as our nation's economy worsens over the short-term, investing in federal student aid is an important element in our recovery.

Because the higher education community has long maintained that providing access to a higher education regardless of family income should be a partnership between universities and the federal government, colleges supplement federal student aid dollars with billions in institutional funds. For example, during the current academic year, NYU will spend approximately \$256 million in institutional funds targeted specifically toward student aid. Additionally, NYU has a long and successful history of attracting low-income students. This year 15 percent of the institution's undergraduate population is eligible for a federal Pell Grant, a high number when compared to our peers among private research institutions.

We support the Administration's proposal to build upon the Recovery Act and increase federal investments in the core federal student aid programs. As a signal of the federal commitment to higher education, NYU urges Congress to prioritize the following programs:

- **As requested by the Obama Administration, the maximum Pell Grant award should be increased to \$5,550.** Pell Grants, which provide basic assistance to financially disadvantaged students, represent the foundation of low-income students' aid packages. At NYU, 3,373 students, 15 percent of the undergrad population, currently receive an average award of approximately \$3,489.
- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) should be increased to \$1 billion.** SEOG provides additional grant assistance to Pell Grant recipients. At NYU, 1,212 students currently receive an average award of \$3,915.

Additionally, the NYU community encourages Congress to provide \$72 million in FY10 for select Department of Education graduate education programs, including the Javits Fellowship and Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), and the newly created Patsy T. Mink

program. Together these programs help cultivate talent across an array of academic disciplines that are vital to our economic recovery. To avoid losing significant numbers of young scholars, the nation must make a renewed commitment to graduate education.

National Science Foundation and the DOE Office of Science

NYU and the broader higher education community are extremely thankful that Congress and the Administration have shown extraordinary leadership in recent years advancing the nation's investment in basic research, particularly in the physical sciences. Both the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Omnibus Appropriations Act for FY09 make significant one-time investments in the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science. Similarly, we are thrilled that President Obama's FY10 Budget Request prioritizes these key agencies.

We have long maintained that an increased investment in these programs is essential to the nation's long-term economic competitiveness and security. Investments in the NSF and the DOE Office of Science will create jobs over the next two years, assist efforts to address long-term energy and climate challenges and lay a solid foundation for the nation's innovation, global competitiveness and economic growth. With the emerging economies of China and India thriving through increased technological investment, it is increasingly clear that the U.S. must follow suit if we hope to maintain our leadership in the 21st Century. NYU researchers received \$20.7 million in competitive peer-review grants from the NSF and \$2.7 million from the DOE Office of Science in 2006-07.

NYU urges Congress to support the Obama Administration's proposed budget of \$7.0 billion for the NSF in FY10, an increase of \$510 million, or 7.9 percent over FY09. Similarly, NYU urges Congress to support a level of \$5.2 billion for the DOE Office of Science, an 8 percent increase over FY09.

The National Institutes of Health

NYU is profoundly thankful for the one-time infusion of funding provided to the NIH, our nation's premier institution for medical research, in the Recovery Act passed in February. The agency embodies our greatest hope for treating or curing debilitating diseases like heart disease, cancer, diabetes and many other illnesses confronted by American families. It is also among our best hopes for containing the rising health care costs related to the retirement of the baby boom generation. A significant portion of the projected increase in health care expenditures over the next two decades can be explained by demographic changes and the escalating costs associated with Alzheimer's, cystic fibrosis, stroke, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and other chronic diseases. Investment in research today can yield cures tomorrow.

NIH funding remains a crucial investment in our nation's quality of life and economic competitiveness, currently supporting 350,000 jobs directly at research institutions across the country. Through this creation of jobs and new companies, biomedical research will be a key component in the effort to lead our nation out of its current economic slump. According to testimony of Acting NIH Director Raynard S. Kington at the November 13th House Health Subcommittee hearing, each NIH grant creates or sustains seven high-skilled and high-paying jobs, the average salary of which is more than \$50,000 annually. At NYU and the NYU Medical Center, researchers working toward innovative health breakthroughs received approximately \$160.8 million in competitive peer-review grants from the NIH in 2006-07.

To continue to create jobs, advance public health, pursue the President's goal of doubling basic research over ten years, and assure a smooth transition for scientists and research capacity brought online by the Recovery Act, the NYU community respectfully requests that Congress support a level of \$32.42 billion for the NIH in FY10, a \$2.12 billion, or 7 percent, increase over FY09. This request is consistent with the level recommended by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research.

The Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences

The Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is the primary agency charged with supporting research that provides the evidence on which to ground education practice and policy. By identifying what works, what doesn't, and why, IES seeks to improve the outcomes of education for all students. Institutions contribute to the work of IES in a variety of different areas, including, teacher performance incentives, educational interventions, english learner achievement gap and cooperative learning.

As a result of the investments that have been made in education research, new tools that inform teacher practice and improve student performance have been developed. However, to distinguish short from long-term phenomena, longitudinal studies and advanced statistical models are required. In addition, randomized control trials and quasi-experimental designs are needed to test promising practices, particularly among traditionally underrepresented or underserved populations.

Investments in education research lead to better schools, more effective teachers, and higher student achievement, ultimately, strengthening our nation's economic competitiveness. Unfortunately, the Department of Education's current investment in education research is less than 1% of the Department's overall budget. IES needs additional resources to enable the kind of research that will enable the translation of theory into practice using systematic study of phenomena from small scale to large.

To advance the science of teaching and learning to the point that education is truly evidence-based, the NYU Community calls for a doubling of the federal investment in IES to \$1.23 billion in FY10. A portion of this increase should be dedicated to a focused effort on teacher effectiveness.

The Department of Defense Research Programs

Innovations developed from DOD-funded research have contributed significantly to our nation's economic and national security. They have helped make the U.S. military the best-equipped and most effective in the world. Moreover, as DOD faces increasingly complex military challenges, it must rely on science and technology as a force multiplier. As the dangers of improvised explosive devices, information warfare, and weapons of mass destruction increase, DOD requires new technologies to neutralize, combat, and overcome these threats. The knowledge required to generate such technologies is dependent on sustained investment in long-term, fundamental research performed at U.S. universities. NYU researchers working toward many of these goals received approximately \$6.6 million in competitive peer-review grants from the DOD in 2006-07.

NYU and the research community support the Secretary of Defense's continued emphasis on peer-reviewed basic research in the FY10 budget proposal. The NYU Community recommends a \$400 million increase for Defense basic research (6.1), from \$1.84 billion in FY09 to \$2.24 billion in FY10. Within these new funds, \$50 million should be specifically designated for advance DOD energy research and security objectives. This request is consistent with recommendations made in

a September 2007 memorandum sent to DOD Secretary Robert Gates by the Director of Defense Research and Engineering and the National Academies' Report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*.

Title VII Health Professions Programs – HRSA

The NYU community remains concerned about recent cuts to the HRSA's Title VII Health Professions Education Programs. Title VII programs provide funding to address the growing shortages of pediatric dentists, pharmacists, medical laboratory personnel, geriatricians and allied health professionals in areas where vacancy rates of some professions have reached alarming levels. Many communities throughout New York lack skilled health care professionals in these fields. By restoring funding to these programs Congress would help communities improve the distribution, quality and diversity of the health professions workforce.

The NYU Community urges Congress to restore the recent cuts by supporting the Obama Administration's FY10 budget proposal of \$330 million for Title VII health professions programs.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides essential support for educating the nation's citizens, preserving our rich and diverse heritage and restoring historic documents through peer-reviewed grants in core divisions of research, education, preservation and access, public programs, federal and state partnerships and challenge grants. NEH funded programs at NYU include the Afghanistan Digital Library, a project that retrieves and restores Afghanistan's published cultural heritage which is in clear danger of disappearing – and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archive, which preserves documents related to the North American role in the Spanish Civil War.

The NYU Community respectfully asks that Congress provide the NEH with \$230 million in FY10, a \$75 million increase over FY09. This funding would help address significant unmet need throughout the Endowment's core programs, including research and education. It also would support a new competitively awarded graduate student-faculty program. NEH is a vital source of funds for scholars and researchers whose work helps citizens and policymakers alike better understand and address the social, and political challenges facing the world today.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about this federal funding request, please contact Steve Heuer, Director, Federal Affairs at 202-719-8929 or at steve.heuer@nyu.edu.