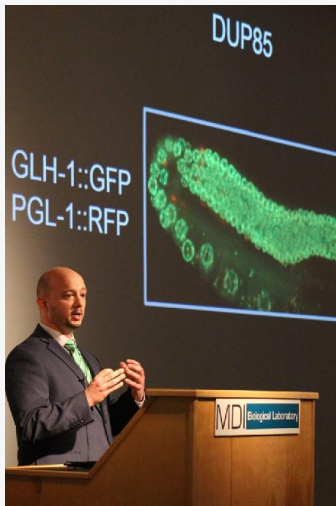


# STUDENT *Spotlight*

**HEATH FUQUA**

**COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC**



Heath is part of an inaugural group of students from COA to participate in an IDeA-funded academic year fellowship program at the MDI Biological Laboratory in Maine

[Read more](#) about Heath's background and research on the EPSCOR/IDeA Foundation's webpage.

# EPSCoR

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# IDeA

**FY<sub>2018</sub> FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE**  
**JULY 2017**





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## A NOTE FROM STU VAN SCOYOC

I would like to thank all of our Board members who traveled to Reno, Nevada last week and participated in the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition and Foundation Joint Board retreat. The retreat served as the starting point for many important discussions related to the future of the EPSCoR/IDeA programs and I appreciate everyone's contributions and look forward to working with you further on these important issues. I would also like to thank Dr. Mridul Gautam and his team at the University of Nevada, Reno for hosting the group.

Over the last several weeks, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (HAC/SAC) have been working hard to advance spending bills through subcommittee and full committee although the end game remains uncertain. As of the end of this week, the House Appropriations Committee has moved all twelve bills through full committee. The Senate Appropriations Committee has also started their markup process and currently have three bills through full committee.

While there is still some talk behind the scenes about attempting a 12 bill FY2018 omnibus, the House of Representatives is currently preparing to consider what has been dubbed a "Security-bus" which is made up of the Defense, Energy & Water, Military Construction/VA, and Legislative Branch appropriations bills. Most Democrats are expected to oppose the spending package due to opposition to the topline discretionary spending levels for defense and nondefense accounts as well as the last-minute inclusion of \$1.6 billion to begin construction of the proposed U.S.-Mexico border wall. The House is expected to consider many amendments as part of this process and you may be hearing from the Coalition staff in the coming days if your help is needed to defeat another attempt by Congressman Bill Foster to target the EPSCoR programs. The Senate is not expected to consider any spending bills on the floor and final spending decisions will ultimately be made later this year.

Before final decisions can be made on appropriations, Congress must address the spending caps that are currently in place as a result of the Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25). As it stands now, if the House was to attempt to enact all twelve bills that have advanced through committee without a new budget agreement raising statutory budget caps, appropriations bills would result in sequestration cuts in January 2018. A budget deal will be key to completing the spending bills later this year.

Your advocacy so far this year has been tremendous and as you will see in this newsletter, proved successful thus far for the EPSCoR/IDeA programs. We are a long way from the finish line and will need your continued support moving forward.

Sincerely,

H. Stewart "Stu" Van Scoyoc  
President, Van Scoyoc Associates



# EPSCoR/IDEA COALITION & FOUNDATION JOINT BOARD RETREAT—RENO NEVADA

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The EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation and Van Scoyoc Associates thank all of the Board members who participated in the EPSCoR/IDEA Coalition and Foundation Joint Board retreat in Reno, Nevada on July 12-14. A special thanks to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Dr. Mridul Gautam, Vice President for Research at UNR for hosting the meeting.

During the meeting, Board members tackled many specific issues relevant to the EPSCoR/IDEA programs, as well as broader issues, such as how to define research competitiveness in the EPSCoR/IDEA states, how to increase EPSCoR/IDEA representation on agency advisory Boards, national scientific committees and panels, and finally, how to increase the participation of EPSCoR/IDEA states in SBIR/STTR programs.

Board members are forming working groups to author position papers dealing with a few of the issues discussed at the retreat. These will be shared with the relevant agencies, Members of Congress, and of course with the EPSCoR/IDEA PDs, PIs and community at large.

# EPSCoR/IDEA BUDGET UPDATE



## FEDERAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SNAPSHOT

### FY18 Appropriations Highlights

- HAC and SAC rejected the Trump Administration proposal related to extramural research project terminations and laboratory closures
- SAC include \$330 million to continue ARPA-E
- HAC increased funding for NIH research and rejected the proposal to cap Facilities & Administration costs included in President's Budget Request
- HAC opposed Administration-proposed cuts to the National Science Foundation and provided funding equal to the current fiscal year
- The HAC preserved the NASA Education Office as well as NASA EPSCoR and Space Grant
- HAC and SAC maintained support for the DOE Office of Science and DOE EPSCoR

### EPSCoR/IDEA BUDGET SUMMARY

*amounts in millions*

Agency	FY16 Omnibus	FY17 Omnibus	FY18 Budget Request	FY18 Coalition Goals	FY18 HAC Approved	FY18 SAC Approved
NSF	\$160.0	\$160.0	\$100.0	\$170.0	\$170.0	
NIH	\$320.8	\$333.4	\$288.0	1% of NIH Budget	\$373.6	
DOE	\$15.0	\$15.0	\$0	\$20.0	\$15.0	\$20.0
USDA	\$52.5*	\$56.25*	n/a	15% Language	\$56.25*	\$56.25*
NASA	\$18.0	\$18.0	\$0	\$25.0	\$18.0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$566.3</b>	<b>\$582.65</b>	<b>\$388.0</b>		<b>\$632.85</b>	

\*Represents 15 percent of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) budget



# FY2018 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

## Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

### Overall Appropriation

FY2016 Enacted: \$162.1 billion  
FY2017 Enacted: \$161 billion  
FY2018 HAC: \$158 billion

### Status of Legislation

The House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY2018 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill this week. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet scheduled a markup for this legislation.

### National Institutes of Health (NIH)

The House Appropriations Committee approved a total of \$35.2 billion for NIH, an increase of \$1.1 billion above the FY2017 enacted level and \$8.6 billion above the President's budget request. Highlights include:

- ♦ \$1.8 billion for Alzheimer's disease research
- ♦ \$336 million for the BRAIN initiative
- ♦ \$400 million for the All of Us research initiative (formerly called the Precision Medicine Initiative)
- ♦ \$300 million for the Cancer Moonshot
- ♦ \$12.6 million for a pediatric cancer research initiative

### Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs

There has been a cold response on Capitol Hill thus far to the Administration's proposal to cap Facilities & Administration (F&A) costs on NIH research that was included in the President's budget request. The HAC-approved bill stipulates that NIH should continue to apply provisions relating to "indirect costs" as it did in FY2017 and that none of the funds in the bill can be used to implement a modified approach to these provisions. Specifically, the legislation directs NIH to "continue to apply the provisions relating to indirect costs in part 75 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as the NIH applied such provisions in the third quarter of fiscal year 2017. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by the NIH to develop or implement a modified approach to such provisions, or to intentionally or substantially expand the fiscal effect of the approval of such deviations from negotiated rates beyond the proportional effect of such approvals in such quarter."

### Institutional Development Awards (IDeA)

The House Appropriations Committee approved \$373.6 million for the IDeA program, \$40 million above the FY2017 Omnibus. The Committee notes in its report that "IDeA supports high-quality research and investigators throughout the country in States in which the success rate for NIH grants has been historically low."

#### NIH IDeA Funding (amounts in millions)

FY2015 Enacted	FY2016 Enacted	FY2017 Enacted	FY2018 Budget Request	FY2018 Goal	FY18 HAC
\$273.325	\$320.8	\$333.4	\$288.0	1% of NIH Budget	\$373.6

# FY2018 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

## Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies

### Overall Appropriation

FY2016 Enacted: \$55.7 billion  
FY2017 Enacted: \$56.6 billion  
FY2018 HAC: \$54 billion

### Status of Legislation

The House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the Commerce-Justice-Science spending bill last week. legislation. The Senate Appropriations Committee could consider their version as soon as next week.

### National Science Foundation (NSF)

- ♦ The House Appropriation Committee recommended \$7.3 billion for NSF in FY2018, \$100 million less than the current fiscal year and \$600 million more than was requested by the Administration.
- ♦ Research and Related Activities: \$6.033 billion, the same amount of funding enacted in FY2017.
- ♦ The committee directs NSF to address GAO's reports on F&A and NSF's progress in implementing GAO recommendations; the reasons for the increase in indirect costs as a percentage of annual award funding since 2010; and the variation in budgeted indirect costs across different types of NSF research and education awards.

#### NSF EPSCoR (amounts in millions)

FY15 Enacted	FY16 Enacted	FY17 Enacted	FY18 Budget Request	FY18 Goal	FY18 HAC
\$159.69	\$160.0	\$160.0	\$100.0	\$170.0	\$170.0

### National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- ♦ The House Appropriation Committee recommended \$19.9 billion for NASA in FY2018, \$200 million more than the current fiscal year and \$800 million more than was requested by the Administration.
- ♦ The bill rejects the President's budget request to eliminate the Office of Education at NASA, and with it the NASA EPSCoR and Space Grant programs.
- ♦ The committee also included a provision limiting the administrative fee for programs like EPSCoR to no more than 5 percent.
- ♦ During a recent Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing featuring the acting Administrator for NASA, Senators from five states expressed dismay at the proposal to eliminate the Office of Education at NASA. They were particularly supportive of the NASA EPSCoR program and suggested on the record that there was "almost no chance" that they would not fund the Office and the EPSCoR program.

#### NASA EPSCoR (amounts in millions)

FY15 Enacted	FY16 Enacted	FY17 Enacted	FY18 Budget Request	FY18 Goal	FY18 HAC
\$18.0	\$18.0	\$18.0	\$0	\$25.0	\$18.0

# FY2018 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

## Energy & Water Development

### Overall Appropriation

FY2016 Enacted:	\$37.2 billion
FY2017 Omnibus:	\$37.8 billion
FY2018 HAC:	\$37.6 billion
FY2018 SAC:	\$38.4 billion

### Status of Legislation

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have approved their versions of the FY2018 spending bill. The House will consider its version next week as part of the “National Security-bus.”

### Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science

- ♦ The House Appropriations Committee included \$5.4 billion for the Office of Science while the Senate Appropriations Committee provided \$5.5 billion. This is about equal to FY2017 (\$5.4 billion) and a little more than \$900 million above the Trump Administration’s budget request.
- ♦ Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committee rejected the Administration's proposal to eliminate DOE EPSCoR.

### Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

The House and Senate bills propose significant reductions to the EERE program. The HAC provides \$1.1 billion for EERE, this is a decrease of about \$1 billion below FY2017 and \$464 million more than was requested by the Trump Administration. The Senate Appropriations Committee-approved bill provided \$1.9 billion for EERE.

### Fossil Energy Research and Development

The HAC provides \$635 million for Fossil Energy Research and Development programs, a decrease of \$33 million below FY2017 and \$355 million above the budget request. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$573 million for Fossil.

### Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E)

The House bill does not provide any funds for ARPA-E and directs DOE to use prior year funds “to conduct an orderly shutdown” as was requested by the Trump Administration. The Senate version of the bill includes \$330 million for ARPA-E and directed DOE not to shutdown the program.

### DOE EPSCoR (amounts in millions)

FY16 Enacted	FY17 Enacted	FY18 Budget Request	FY18 Goal	FY18 HAC	FY18 SAC
\$15.0	\$15.0	\$0	\$20.0	\$15.0	\$20.0



# FY2018 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

## Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration & Related Agencies

### Overall Appropriation

FY2017 Omnibus: \$20.88 billion

FY2018 HAC: \$20.0 billion

FY2018 SAC: \$20.5 billion

### Status of Legislation

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have approved their versions of the FY2018 Agriculture spending bill. Floor consideration has not yet been scheduled.

### Agricultural Research

- ♦ The House and Senate versions of the spending bill provide roughly \$2.5 billion for agriculture research programs, this is a reduction of a little more than \$350 million below the FY2017 Omnibus but more than \$380 million above the FY2018 budget request.
- ♦ Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees included report language directing that not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA's agricultural research enhancement awards program, including USDA-EPSCoR
- ♦ The House version of the spending bill included report language directed at F&A costs – “The Committee is concerned that USDA research programs are inconsistent in the amount of overhead charges which can be paid to cooperating institutions. The Committee directs Research, Education and Economics to submit a report within 60 days of enactment of this Act on current policies related to such indirect costs by account and by program.”

### USDA EPSCoR (amounts in millions)

FY16 Enacted	FY17 Enacted	FY18 Budget	FY18 Goal	FY18 HAC	FY18 SAC
\$52.5*	\$56.25*	\$52.35*	15% Language	\$56.25*	\$56.25

*\*represents 15 percent of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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**NOVEMBER 5-8, 2017**  
**25TH NSF EPSCoR NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**MISSOULA, MONTANA**  
**DETAILS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

**DECEMBER 5-6, 2017**  
**COALITION AND FOUNDATION BOARD MEETINGS**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

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