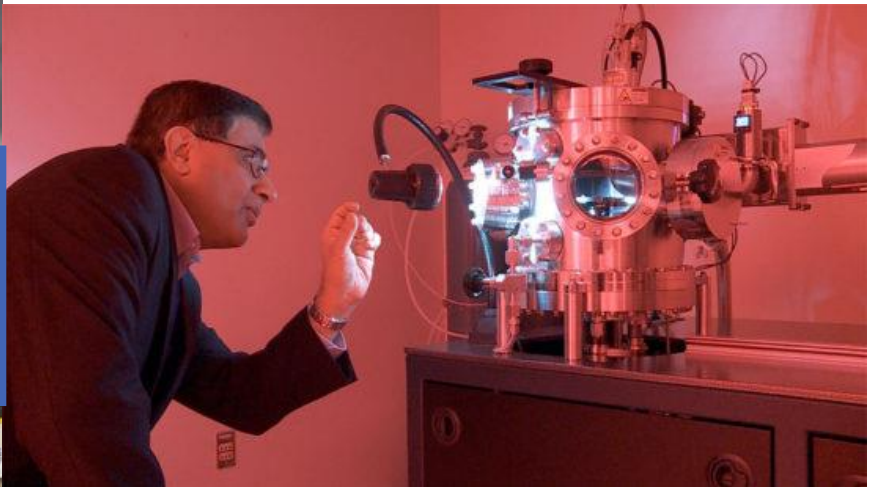


EPSCoR

IDEA



NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



VAN SCOYOC
ASSOCIATES

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A NOTE FROM STU VAN SCOYOC



Congress returned to Capitol Hill following the election of Donald Trump as our next president for a short “lame duck” session. While initial expectations of the lame duck included clearing many key pieces of legislation, it is now likely that Congress spends its remaining time in 2016 deferring major decisions on spending and policy into the next congress.

Last week, House Republicans announced that they will begin working on a Continuing Resolution (CR) to extend government operations through March 2017. This strategy was requested by President-elect Donald Trump’s transition team and was discussed during a closed door Republican Conference meeting in the House of Representatives with Vice President-elect Mike Pence. Senators from both political parties have raised some objections to this approach but are not expected to delay approval of the CR following the Thanksgiving break.

Congress must pass the next CR before December 9th, when the current 10-week stopgap expires. The current plan is to approve the short-term spending bill the week of December 5th. The delayed FY2017 budget, the ongoing transition to the Trump Administration, and the likely delay of the FY2018 budget release could have an impact on operations at the federal science agencies next year.

House Speaker Paul Ryan has promised members of the House Republican Conference that there will be a vote early next year on whether to reinstate earmarks in appropriations bills. This action comes following a lengthy debate where lawmakers expressed their frustration over spending authority that has been conceded to the Executive Branch.

The House Republican conference debated two amendments during a closed-door meeting designed to set up House rules for the next two years. The first amendment would have allowed lawmakers to direct appropriations to federal, state or local government projects. The second would have modified the earmark ban to allow Representatives to direct Army Corps of Engineers funding to projects in their districts. According to sources in the room, a majority of Republicans were in favor of lifting the earmark ban. However, Speaker Ryan stepped in and urged the conference to postpone any decisions.

Even if the House Republicans decided to bring back congressionally directed spending during the 115th session of Congress, the Senate might not follow along. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell reinforced his support of the current ban during a news conference last week.

Finally, President-elect Trump has not yet announced any nominees for the important science-related appointments. As the new administration begins filling many of his national security posts, his personnel choices in the science agencies will become more clear.

We look forward to discussing these issues and more with you at the December joint Foundation-Coalition Board meeting. The coming year will be an extremely busy one and your engagement and advocacy will matter more than ever!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stu".

H. Stewart “Stu” Van Scoyoc
President, Van Scoyoc Associates

THANK YOU DR. BILL GERN!

As 2016 comes to a close, the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition will be saying goodbye to our Chairman, Dr. Bill Gern and welcoming our new incoming Chairman of the Board, Dr. Chris Lawson.



On behalf of everyone involved with the Coalition and Van Scoyoc Associates, we would like to thank Dr. Gern for all of the dedication, expertise, and wisdom he displayed during his tenure as the Chairman of the Coalition. We sincerely appreciate all of your leadership in ensuring that research opportunities are available to scientist in all states. Dr. Gern spearheaded numerous efforts during his time as chairman and the EPSCoR/IDeA states are better positioned to carry out the important mission of training the scientific workforce of tomorrow.

Dr. Gern is a strong advocate of additional Department of Energy funding for EPSCoR/IDeA states and saw significant increases to both the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR program and the National Institutes of Health's IDeA program during his time as chairman.

Thank you, Bill, for your vision and dedication in leading the Coalition and laying a strong foundation for the EPSCoR/IDeA programs!

Dr. Chris Lawson from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the current Vice Chair of the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition has agreed to serve out the remainder of Dr. Gern's term which expires at the end of this year.



Dr. Lawson, is currently a professor in the Department of Physics, Executive Director of Alabama Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ALEPSCoR), and the Director of the Alabama EPSCoR Graduate Research Scholars Program. The programs will face many new challenges during Dr. Lawson's term and we are confident that under his leadership, the programs will continue to grow.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHANGES IN THE 115TH CONGRESS

It has been announced that Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) will take over the top Democratic spot on the Senate Appropriations Committee in the next Congress. The EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition of States celebrates this decision and looks forward to working with Senator Leahy in his new capacity. Joining Senator Leahy at the top of the Senate Appropriations Committee will be returning Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS) who is expected to retain the gavel for two more years.

On the House side, Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY-5) must step down after three terms as chairman of the full committee and is expected to lead an influential subcommittee next year. New Jersey Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11) is the current favorite to take over as the new chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Frelinghuysen currently chairs the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and is the most senior Republican on the committee after Rogers.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY-17) will return has the Ranking Democratic Member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Additional announcements on appropriations committee membership and subcommittee leadership are forthcoming. The Coalition will provide updates as those decisions are made.

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

- [The U.S. Election is Over. Who Will Hold Key Science Leadership Jobs?](#)
- [How President-elect Trump Views Science](#)
- [Young Climate Researchers Face a Trump Reality](#)
- [What Will President Trump Mean for Science?](#)



BUDGET UPDATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- The House Appropriations Committee proposed to boost NIH funding by \$1.25 billion over the current level of \$33.3 billion, while the Senate Appropriations Committee proposed a \$2 billion increase.
- Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees propose an increase for NASA in FY2017 that is \$1 billion more than the president's budget request.
- The House and Senate have both proposed increasing the DOE Office of Science by \$50 million over the FY2016 funding level of \$5.35 billion.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee bill would hold funding for NSF research steady at \$6.034 billion while the House would increase it by less than 1 percent to \$6.079 billion. This is in line with the president's budget request which also proposed \$6.079 billion in discretionary spending for NSF research next year.

FY2017 FEDERAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SNAPSHOT

FY2017 EPSCoR/IDEA BUDGET SUMMARY

Numbers in millions of dollars

Agency	FY15 Omnibus	FY16 Omnibus	FY17 Budget Request	FY17 Coalition Goals	FY17 House	FY17 Senate
NSF	159.69	160.0	162.13*	170.0	170.7	160.0
NIH	273.325	320.8	320.84	331.14	333.3	333.4
DOE	10.0	15.0	8.5	20.0	10.0	20.0
USDA	48.7**	52.5**	N/A	56.25**	56.25**	56.25**
NASA	18.0	18.0	9.0	25.0	18.0	18.0
Totals	509.72	566.3	500.47***	602.39	588.25	587.65

* Represents discretionary spending only

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

*** Figure does not include AFRI funding

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click on a map for directions.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

Coalition and Foundation Board Meetings

Van Scoyoc Offices

101 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20001

9:00—3:30 PM ET: Joint Meeting of the EPSCoR/IDeA
Foundation and Coalition Boards



Accommodations:

Mention the Van Scoyoc Companies corporate rate when calling the [Hotel George](#)

Use code 21813 for a discounted rate at the [Hyatt Regency—Capitol Hill](#)



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017

2017 Coalition of EPSCoR/IDeA States Annual Meeting

[Washington Court Hotel](#)

525 New Jersey Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20001



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WEBSITE IS COMING SOON!**