



## **SUNY Federal Relations Update Monday, April 7, 2008**

It has been reported that more than 90 percent of members of congress have submitted earmark requests despite calls for a moratorium from House Republican leaders, House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and the three remaining major presidential candidates, Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.), Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.). An overload of earmark requests clogged the House Appropriations Committee's Web site in mid-March, forcing an extension to the request deadline to following week—indicated that interest in earmarks has not subsided despite recent calls for a moratorium. The committee extended its deadline after a "massive influx of requests" caused "unavoidable access and processing delays."

The Higher Education Act Reauthorization is still being negotiated amongst both House and Senate Committee staff. No conferees have been announced and will likely not be announced until after the major negotiations have already taken place. Most likely, Congress will have to pass another extension (which currently is set to expire on April 30th).

This week, Interim Chancellor John Clark, numerous SUNY campus presidents, campus-based federal relations staff and senior SUNY System Administration staff members will gather in Washington for the annual SUNY Days in Washington, DC meeting. The group will hear from ACE President David Ward, US Senator Chuck Schumer, and many others about the latest events and activities in the nation's capital and how these federal actions may affect SUNY and colleges and universities across the county.

On Monday, April 14, I am looking forward to addressing attendees at a workshop sponsored by The Research Foundation of State University of New York and the University Faculty Senate on "How to Get Your Proposal Funded" at the University at Albany.

Below you will find additional information on the following topics—lots on S&T and a few events to be aware of:

- **House Ways & Means Committee to Hold Higher Ed Tax Incentives Hearing**
- **FIPSE competition includes PSM as Invitational Priority**
- **2008 Sustainable Energy Fellowship Program**
- **Morrisville State College Receives \$2 Million for Renewable Energy Training Center**
- **April 29 Convocation on "Gathering Storm" Follow-Up**

- **The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual AAAS Forum on Science and Technology Policy**
- **Global Higher Education Development Summit to be Held in April**
- **America COMPETES Funding Request Letters**
- **Final House NIH Dear Colleague**
- **Final House NSF Dear Colleague**
- **"Science in the Supplemental" Call-in Campaign Set for 8-10 April**
- **National Institutes of Health Seeks Comment on Public Access**

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### **House Ways & Means Committee to Hold Higher Ed Tax Incentives Hearing**

House Ways and Means staff have reported that the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee is planning a hearing next month on higher ed tax incentives, focusing on legislation introduced by Reps. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.) and Dave Camp (R-Mich.). The subcommittee is considering April 17 as the hearing date, but there may be scheduling problems for Members that day because of the Pope's visit to DC. Witnesses at the hearing are expected to include representatives from a four-year college and a community college.

The Emanuel-Camp bill (HR 2458), which was introduced May 23, 2007, would:

*Simplify and Consolidate Three Higher Education Tax Incentives.* The bill consolidates the Hope Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit, the tuition tax deduction into one simple, streamlined, easy-to-understand credit, which combines the best features of the existing tax benefits. According to a GAO study, 27% of all eligible tax filers did not claim either the tuition deduction or a tax credit.

*Make College More Affordable for the Middle Class.* The bill provides a maximum \$3000 credit that is available on a per student basis. The bill expands eligibility for the credit to higher income levels and increases the benefit for middle-class families struggling to keep up with rising tuition costs.

*Makes College More Accessible for the Middle Class.* One-third of all American households, which are home to about half of all American children, do not have federal income tax liability. The bill provides a 50% refundable credit that will allow these households, for the first time, to receive a tax benefit for higher education. Currently, among the 67 million taxpayers that earn less than \$30,000, the higher education tax benefits are only providing \$1.5 billion in assistance.

*Creates Universal Credit for All Post-Secondary Education.* The credit is available for all four years of college (public or private), two years of community college, two years of graduate school, and is available to individuals that are updating their skills in a training or certificate program.

*Covers Non-Tuition Costs.* The bill expands the type of eligible education expenses that qualify for the tax credit to include room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. By modifying the definition, the bill conforms how eligible education expenses are defined in the tax code with how they are defined for the purpose of qualifying for federal financial aid.

### **FIPSE competition includes PSM as Invitational Priority**

The U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education Comprehensive Program (FIPSE), which supports innovative reforms and improvements that respond to problems of national significance that can serve as national models, is inviting applications for its Fiscal Year 2008 competition. One of the invitational priorities is for projects "designed to establish, improve, or expand Professional Science Master's degree programs." An estimated \$2.6 million will be available for 5-7 awards of up to \$600,000 per year; projects can last up to four years. Applications are due May 5, 2008.

More information is available at [www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/) by searching for "page 15147".

### **2008 Sustainable Energy Fellowship Program**

Offered for the second consecutive year, faculty from Arizona State University, Duke University, the University of Michigan and Cornell University in partnership with representatives from industry, government and NGO's provide a unique collaborative learning experience for upper division undergraduate students and early in career graduate students. No more than 40 exceptional students will be accepted this year. Held this year on the campus of Duke University, the program will run 24-31 May 2008. Expenses for accepted students are covered by the generous donations of our industry partners. ***Students will need to follow the application process (due 18 April) at [www.TeachEnergy.org](http://www.TeachEnergy.org)*** Students are required to obtain 2 faculty references, provide GPA's and complete a written statement of purpose. This is a unique learning experience that explores sustainability, biocomplexity, conventional and renewable energy, demand side management, climate-energy systems, policy, national security, economics and the role of institutions. Students will get hands-on experiences at actual generation facilities and demonstration sites in addition to lectures and discussions with thought leaders.

### **Morrisville State College Receives \$2 Million for Renewable Energy Training Center**

On a related note, kudos to Morrisville State College, recognized for its leadership in the development and application of "green" technology, has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to create a Renewable Energy Training Center and

associated programs that will serve as a workforce and economic development catalyst in Central Upstate New York. The Department of Labor selected 69 grant recipients from 341 applicants across the nation under the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants Initiative. The initiative is designed to improve the ability of colleges to provide their regions' workers with the skills needed to enter growing industries in their hometowns.

### **April 29 Convocation on "Gathering Storm" Follow-Up**

National Academies of Science Campus will be hosting a convocation on Tuesday, April 29, that follows up on the NAS 2005 report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." The purpose of the meeting is to take stock of developments since publication of the report—such as enactment of the America COMPETES Act—and to "strengthen engagement among the various stakeholders seeking to renew American innovation and explore how progress can be sustained and accelerated."

Information about the event, including the draft agenda and how to register, is available [here](#).

### **The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual AAAS Forum on Science and Technology Policy**

The annual AAAS Forum on Science and Technology Policy is a conference for people interested in public policy issues facing the science, engineering, and higher education communities. Since 1976, it has been the place where insiders go to learn what is happening and what is likely to happen in the coming year on the federal budget and the growing number of policy issues that affect researchers and their institutions. Come to the Forum, learn about the future of S&T policy, and meet the people who will shape it. The next S&T Policy Forum will be 8-9 May 2008 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC. The program will include a keynote address by President's science advisor, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

For more information and to register, please go to: ( <http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/forum.htm> )

### **Global Higher Education Development Summit to be Held in April**

The Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Department of Education are scheduled to convene a Global Higher Education Summit of university and college presidents. The summit will be held in Washington, DC on April 29 and 30. Meeting participants will include college and university presidents as well as leaders in government, philanthropy, and business from around the world. The summit's objectives are to broaden existing partnerships and networks between U.S. institutions and higher education institutions in other countries, to expand innovative approaches to teaching, research, and business, and to develop strategies to establish new higher education relationships and build capacity. In addition, on May 1 regional workshops will be held to explore specific ways to expand partnerships between the U.S. and foreign institutions using

the specific outcomes of the summit. The group will consider strategies to expand or broaden new approaches to partnerships and networks. Attendance at this event is by invitation only, but you can read more about it here: <http://www.hedglobalsummit.org/>

### **America COMPETES Funding Request Letters**

Colleges and universities have been encouraged to sign onto three letters urging the President and the leaders of the House and Senate to consider including funding for science research and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in the FY2008 Supplemental Appropriations bill. The letters, which ask the President and Congressional leaders to fulfill their commitments to the America COMPETES Act, are circulating in the university, science, and business communities to illustrate broad and deep support across the country for including science in a supplemental appropriations bill. You can add their institution to the letter by contacting Susan Traiman of the Business Roundtable at [straiman@businessroundtable.org](mailto:straiman@businessroundtable.org). The deadline for signing on is Friday, April 11. Copies of the letters are attached.



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### **Final House NIH Dear Colleague**

179 Members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to appropriators urging them allocate a 6.5% increase in funding to NIH as they mark-up FY 2009 appropriations legislation for federal fiscal year 2009. A copy of the letter is attached.



NIH 03-19-08  
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### **Final House NSF Dear Colleague**

135 Members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to appropriators urging them allocate \$7.3 billion for the National Science Foundation as they mark-up FY 2009 appropriations legislation for federal fiscal year 2009. A copy of the letter is attached.



NSF FY09 FINAL  
copy with signa...

### **"Science in the Supplemental" Call-in Campaign Set for 8-10 April**

As part of the effort to secure funding for science in an FY2008 Supplemental appropriations bill, the science community is planning a broad call-in campaign to Capitol Hill and the White House on April 8, 9, and 10. This will be akin to many grassroots campaigns that reach out to federal elected officials. The goal is for scientists and others from all over the country to call upon their own Members of Congress and the President during the designated three-day period and urge that the elected representatives include science in the expected FY2008 Supplemental bill. The call-in effort will focus on funding for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science and the National Institute for Standards and Technology - the same agencies included in the President's American Competitiveness Initiative and widely supported by both Congressional chambers. The House Appropriations Committee has scheduled a markup of a supplemental appropriations bill on April 16.

*Many graduate students, professors, administrators, and other researchers on your campuses may have been notified of the call-in campaign through their scientific societies and associations.*

### **National Institutes of Health Seeks Comment on Public Access**

As part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is required to make publicly available research that was funded with taxpayer dollars. NIH had previously convened a public meeting to discuss this new requirement and receive comment. NIH is now asking for further comment from stakeholders on this issue. Comments collected to date, focused on issues such as copyright and NIH's training materials can be found at [publicaccess.nih.gov/comments2/comments\\_web\\_listing.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/comments2/comments_web_listing.htm). NIH is particularly interested in public response to the following:

- Recommendations for other implementation approaches than those currently reflected in the NIH Public Access Policy
- Recommendations for ways to monitor and ensure compliance
- Recommendations for additional information, training or communications that would be helpful to the public concerning the public access regulation.

Comments will be accepted until May 31, 2008 at [publicaccess.nih.gov/comments.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/comments.htm).