

## **SUNY Federal Relations Update Monday, May 18, 2009**

House and Senate authorizing and appropriating committees have now begun holding hearings on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Congress' goal is to finish the appropriations process before the end of the current fiscal year on September 30, though due to the delay in the Administration's budget request release, some Members have already said a stop-gap "continuing resolution" may be likely this fall.

In other news:

- **NSF Releases FY 2010 Budget Details**
- **Lemnios Nominated as Director of Defense Research and Engineering at DOD**
- **O'Toole Nominated to Head DHS S&T Directorate**
- **NIH Seeks Public Comment on Conflict-of-Interest Policy**
- **NSF Releases ARRA Terms and Conditions**
- **Recovery Act Grants.gov System Alleviation Notice**
- **ARPA-E Seeking Program Managers**

- **NSF Releases FY 2010 Budget Details**

On May 14, the Administration released additional details of its FY10 budget request for the National Science Foundation. In its budget, NSF highlighted the President's Plan for Science and Innovation, a plan that supports increased federal investment in undergraduate and graduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education as well as high-risk research related to climate change. The budget also highlighted several other significant presidential initiatives, including a \$92 million foundation-wide investment in transformative research, \$203 million for the Faculty Early Career Development Program, and \$122 million for the Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program. According to the budget request, \$122 million in funding for GRF would support 1,654 new fellowships in FY10.

On Friday, NSF released the final details of its budget, available here:

<http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2010/toc.jsp>

An overview is available here:

[http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2010/pdf/01\\_fy2010.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2010/pdf/01_fy2010.pdf)

- **Lemnios Nominated as Director of Defense Research and Engineering at DOD**

Zachary Lemnios, chief technology officer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory has been nominated as Director of Defense Research & Engineering at the Department of Defense.

Lemnios, who has held several positions at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and in such corporations as Hughes Aircraft, Westinghouse Electric, and Ford Microelectronics, earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in electrical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He also attended the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

- **O'Toole Nominated to Head DHS S&T Directorate**

Tara O'Toole, director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, has been nominated by President Obama to serve as Under Secretary for the Science and Technology Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security.

O'Toole earned a bachelor's degree from Vassar College, a master's in public health from The Johns Hopkins University, and a medical degree from George Washington University.

- **NIH Seeks Public Comment on Conflict-of-Interest Policy**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) on May 8 issued a request for public comment on whether the Department of Health and Human Services should modify its regulations on financial conflicts of interest. The agency is interested in comments on such areas as expanding the scope of regulations and disclosure, the definition of "significant financial interest," and whether the regulations should be broadened to address institutional, as well as individual, conflicts of interest. Comments are due by July 7.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-099.html>

- **NSF Releases ARRA Terms and Conditions**

Many in the scientific community had been concerned about the fact that the National Science Foundation (NSF) had yet to release any guidance or procedures on its use of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). NSF finally released late last week its terms and conditions for ARRA funding. The guidance is available at the following address:

[http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/arra/arratc\\_509.pdf?govDel=USNSF\\_80](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/arra/arratc_509.pdf?govDel=USNSF_80)

- **Recovery Act Grants.gov System Alleviation Notice**

Please note this official notice from Grants.gov:

Due to the expected increase in system activity resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has authorized steps to alleviate system strain and quickly increase system capacity. As part of this strategy, select programs may choose to use alternate systems to process grant applications during this heightened period of demand. As a result, once you have identified your grant opportunity, be sure to carefully read the instructions to ensure you are following proper submission procedures for that program, even if you have applied before. Note that Grants.gov will still be the one place to find all available Federal grant opportunities. All opportunities posted on Grants.gov will include specific application instructions, including as appropriate, instructions for submitting applications outside of Grants.gov.

The following agencies will be accepting some or all applications outside of Grants.gov ? Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Education (DOED) Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Transportation (DOT), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Air and Space Administration (NASA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF.) Please place close attention to the grant announcements and application instructions for these agencies. Applicants for grant announcements offered by agencies using alternate systems should note that the Grants.gov Contact Center can not address questions or issues relating to an alternate processing system. For assistance, applicants for these announcements should contact the designated official specified in the grant announcement and application instructions for the agency issuing the opportunity.

- **ARPA-E Seeking Program Managers**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) are seeking short-term staff and long-term program managers for the newest government research entity, the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E).

One of President Obama's top priorities is to build the foundation for a clean energy economy by increasing investment in energy R&D. ARPA-E has received \$400 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and an additional \$15 million in the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. In order to meet the Secretary's goal, ARPA-E needs to quickly staff up the organization with the nation's best and brightest.

DOE is seeking individuals for both immediate and longer-term positions within ARPA-E. The immediate positions would last 6-12 months. These would be temporary personnel with the knowledge and expertise to help DOE organize the new agency who would serve as temporary program managers and provide additional program support. Individuals accepted for these positions would begin work immediately or as soon as feasible. For the longer term, DOE is looking for individuals willing to serve a three-year term at the agency as program officers and assistant program officers. University faculty and staff interested in both the immediate and longer-term positions could join the new agency through an IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility <<http://www.opm.gov/programs/ipa/>> Program).