AAU SUPPORTS INCREASED, ROBUST FUNDING FOR NASA’S SCIENCE AND AERONAUTICS RESEARCH MISSIONS. AAU URGES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE AT LEAST $19 BILLION FOR NASA OVERALL IN FY11, WHICH IS $276 MILLION, OR 1.5 PERCENT, OVER THE FY10 FUNDING LEVEL.

Over the past decade, NASA has captivated the public with accomplishments that have revolutionized our understanding of earth and space science, the life sciences, and aeronautics. AAU applauds the Administration’s pledge to increase funding for NASA by $6 billion over the next five years. We strongly urge the Administration and Congress to meet this commitment in order to ensure the preeminence of the nation’s space enterprise.

AAU APPLAUDS THE ADMINISTRATION’S FY11 BUDGET REQUEST FOR NASA’S SCIENCE AND AERONAUTICS MISSION DIRECTORATES

NASA’s science and aeronautics programs have always played a vital role in the nation’s space enterprise. AAU appreciates the support space technology and research have received in the FY11 NASA budget. The FY11 budget request for the Science Mission Directorate underscores several important initiatives, including support for Earth Science and climate change research, continued funding of Mars-related research, support for NuSTAR and the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), and support for the Solar Probe Plus. The FY11 budget request also makes a real commitment to aeronautics research and technology development programs. **AAU urges Members of Congress to appropriate at least $5 billion for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate and $1.1 billion for Aeronautics and Space Research and Technology.**

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

AAU supports the Administration’s FY11 request for an across-the-board increase for Research and Analysis grants. **We urge Congress to appropriate at least $324.6 million for Earth Science, $131 million for Planetary Science, $60.2 million for Astrophysics, and $31.7 million for Heliophysics.**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

The FY11 budget request maps out important changes to NASA’s education programs, including the expansion of STEM Higher Education Programs and enhanced collaboration between NASA and 850 colleges and universities in the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program. While the budget request outlines plans for several innovative education programs, it also would cut the Space Grant program significantly. **To ensure continued success of Space Grant, AAU urges Congress to provide the program with its FY10 enacted level of $45.5 million.**

**NASA FACTS**

**NASA’s University-Based Programs Help Educate America’s Future Scientific and Engineering Workforce**

An important component of NASA’s mission is the education of young scientists and engineers. These individuals will support future NASA activities and provide the expertise the U.S. needs for technological and economic competitiveness. NASA science and aeronautics programs play a vital role in engaging undergraduate and graduate students in such high technology programs as flight hardware, advanced data analysis, and modeling. NASA activities carried out in the nation’s universities have a double payoff: the development of instruments and software for use in NASA missions and operations and the education of students who will participate in the nation’s technological and scientific workforce.

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

AAU supports education programs, including the expansion of STEM programs and enhanced collaboration between NASA and universities in the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program. This collaboration benefits both students and researchers.