AAU PRAISES PRESIDENT’S FOCUS ON SCIENCE AND EDUCATION IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the President’s State of the Union address tonight.

We agree with the President that the nation needs to take strong action to reduce budget deficits, and that as we do so, we must continue to direct additional resources toward research and education to ensure America’s economic competitiveness and global leadership. Investments in research lead to discoveries that are critical to innovation and economic growth, to creation of new industries, to combating disease, and to making our fighting men and women the best-equipped in the world. And it is essential that we invest in preparing today’s generation of young people for the jobs of the 21st century economy.

The nation faces very important and difficult choices regarding how to address budget deficits, yet the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform recently recommended we increase investments in research and education even as we take bold steps to reduce deficits. It is our hope that sustained investment in research and education, even as we reduce deficits, is something Democrats and Republicans can agree on.

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The Association of American Universities is an association of 61 U.S. and two Canadian research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.