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The development of world-class talent in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines is critical to America’s global leadership in forging new and transformative discoveries that benefit society. To do this successfully, we must foster a diverse and inclusive scientific community that can draw from an array of unique experiences and viewpoints. America is stronger when the diversity of the scientific workforce reflects the diversity of the nation.

Today, in response to First Lady Michelle Obama’s call to action, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities commit to working with the National Science Foundation to support and promote flexible work and learning environments for those in STEM and other disciplines at the nation’s universities.

While we have made great strides in this area over the last few decades, the ongoing dialogue between NSF and the university community should expand our progress on career–life balance policies, thus helping to ensure a brighter future for our nation.

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