## AAU URGES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE $154.3 MILLION FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES IN FY13.

As the only federal agency tasked with advancing U.S. achievement over the entire range of academic fields in the humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides critical grant support for the activities of hundreds of educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and individual scholars nationwide. The humanities remain central to the missions of U.S. colleges and universities and the cultural life of the nation. Students study humanities fields such as history, modern and classical languages, linguistics, literature, philosophy, jurisprudence, ethics, comparative religion, and political science. Through their studies, they gain knowledge about the world and its cultures, as well as necessary analytical thinking and communications skills. In 2009, AAU institutions awarded 60 percent of U.S. doctorates in the humanities.

### FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE HUMANITIES IS A STRATEGIC NATIONAL PRIORITY

A robust humanities education is critical to a globally competitive workforce. From the basic building blocks of early education, to the highest levels of academic attainment, humanities fields provide individuals with skills, competencies, and expertise needed by the government, business, and the nonprofit sector. More than 2.5 million Americans are engaged in a broad range of professions and able to use their education in such areas as advertising/marketing, public administration, law, national security/intelligence, international trade, arts/entertainment, and health. Our country’s success in meeting economic, global, and national security challenges depends on understanding not only technological and scientific complexities, but also larger social and international issues. NEH programs help sustain the vitality of humanities education and scholarship and, thus, help ensure that America can compete successfully in a global economy and advance sound public policy to address the challenges of the 21st century.

### RESTORING NEH’S COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS

At the core of the humanities is the distinctively human capacity to imagine, to interpret, and to represent the human experience – Geoffrey Galt Harpham, President and Director of the National Humanities Center.

AAU is especially concerned about the continued erosion of funding for NEH competitive grants for nonprofit institutions and scholars, as these grants have been disproportionately cut over the past decade. We support a funding level of $71.4 million for the competitive programs: Research, Education, Preservation & Access, Challenge Grants, Public Programs, and Digital Humanities, a modest $2.6 million increase above FY12. AAU also supports $9 million for the Director’s Bridging Cultures initiative, which aims to foster mutual respect for diverse beliefs and values across cultures. We support giving priority in the initiative to competitive grant programs and advanced research. Within the competitive programs, AAU supports the continuation of current policy allowing graduate students to participate in select NEH programs. This provides opportunities for collaboration among students and faculty similar to those in the sciences, and helps to sustain the pipeline of young humanities researchers and scholars.