AAU STATEMENT ON SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, HIGHER EDUCATION

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s approval today of the FY14 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

On behalf of AAU’s 60 leading public and private U.S. research universities, I want to commend Senate appropriators for approving an FY14 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill that increases funding for a host of important research and education programs, particularly for the National Institutes of Health and Pell Grants.

We believe these investments are vital to the nation’s ability to maintain its global scientific and economic leadership, to develop new preventions and cures for debilitating diseases and conditions, and to enable Americans in all walks of life to obtain a high quality education. We cannot let these and other similar investments in scientific research and student aid be squeezed out by the arbitrary sequestration that grows more destructive the longer it is kept in place.

We are disappointed that the House has embraced the sequester in FY14 and placed nearly the entire burden of spending cuts on domestic discretionary programs. The extraordinary reductions in national investments required by the sequester are a recipe for national decline. Over time, they will prevent our nation from competing effectively with other countries that are pouring resources into research and education.

While we support a balanced, long-term agreement to address the nation’s fiscal challenges, we call on the President and both parties in Congress to agree now to protect critical investments in research and education in the FY14 appropriations process.

###

The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

Please visit us at www.aau.edu and follow us on Twitter at @AAUniversities.