AAU STATEMENT ON SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND NASA

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s approval yesterday of the FY14 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

AAU and its 60 leading public and private U.S. research universities applaud Senate appropriators for their FY14 Commerce-Justice-Science spending bill, which increases funding for several science agencies, including the National Science Foundation and NASA.

These investments are vital to the nation’s ability to maintain its global scientific and economic leadership, to explore and better understand the world around us and beyond, and to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers. We cannot let these and other similar investments in scientific research and education be squeezed out by the budget sequester, which grows more destructive the longer it is in place.

We are disappointed that the House has chosen to maintain the sequester in FY14 and placed nearly the entire burden of further spending cuts on domestic discretionary programs. These cuts are harming the science agencies, including NSF and NASA, despite the continuing efforts of the subcommittee to give priority to these programs, which many Members from both parties have long supported for their contributions to national, regional, and local scientific, economic, and educational activities. Cuts in federal research and education programs are already harming our nation’s ability to compete effectively with other countries that are rapidly increasing their investments in 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.