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CONTACT: Barry Toiv
202-408-7500, barry_toiv@aau.edu

RESEARCH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS BACK
PRESIDENT BUSH'S COMPETITIVENESS INITIATIVE

Following is a statement adopted by the presidents and chancellors of the Association of American Universities (AAU) expressing support for the research investments proposed by President Bush in his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and in his FY2007 budget, as well as for broader competitiveness legislation. The AAU leaders took this action on April 25, 2006, at their annual Washington, DC meeting. The proposed ACI investments will be considered by Congress in the appropriations process in the coming weeks.

The Association of American Universities urges Congress to approve the research investments proposed by President Bush in his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and his FY 2007 budget. AAU believes this would be a critical first step toward addressing the agenda outlined in the National Academies report “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” and by other recent reports on competitiveness, such as AAU’s National Defense Education and Innovation Initiative.

AAU further encourages Congress to adopt comprehensive legislation to achieve the goals identified in these reports. Such legislation will build upon the singular strength of the American system of higher education, which fosters broad and critical inquiry in all fields of knowledge. This model is essential to advancing innovation and producing a workforce prepared to meet the challenges of change in the 21st century.

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The Association of American Universities is an association of 60 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. The list of these leading research universities can be found at http://www.aau.edu/aau/members.html.