NEWS RELEASE

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Industry-University Coalition Seeks
$500 Million Supplemental Funding for Basic Science Research

February 13, 2008—A coalition of nearly a dozen industry and university leaders yesterday called upon Congress and the Administration to repair some of the damage caused by their failure to fund their respective competitiveness and innovation initiatives in the FY2008 appropriations process.

In meetings today with Members of Congress and the Administration, the coalition pushed for inclusion in the FY2008 supplemental appropriations bill $500 million for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to avert likely layoffs of science and technology workers and prevent the loss of research capacity and facilities. They asked for $300 million for the DOE Office of Science and $200 million for NSF.

Last year, both the President and large minorities in Congress supported significant new FY2008 funding for both agencies as well as for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). However when the omnibus appropriations package was enacted in December, nearly all of this funding was eliminated. In addition to the FY2008 supplemental funding, the business-higher education coalition expressed support for the President's FY2009 budget for increased funding at NSF and DOE Office of Science.

The funds that were initially supported by the Administration and Congress also reflected the America COMPETES Act, which was enacted in 2007 and authorizes substantial new investments in these agencies.

"During the last budget cycle, we experienced a setback for the United States," said Graham Spanier, president of The Pennsylvania State University and chair of the Association of American Universities. "We're not here to assess blame, it was a systemic failure of the appropriations process to fund the American competitiveness initiatives and higher education and the sciences were the victims."

The issue is more than just scientific research, the issue is jobs.
"Jobs in America are very much at risk and will be in the future, not just on the assembly line but in engineering and technology," added Norman Augustine, retired CEO and chairman of Lockheed Martin Corporation and lead author of the groundbreaking report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. "While scientists and engineers represent only four percent of the U.S. workforce, their productivity creates jobs for 96 percent of the population. We are going to increasingly see the need for stimulus packages if we don't invest in basic science. We're not rising above the gathering storm."

Robert H. Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota and chair of **NASULGC, A Public University Association**, took a slightly different tack.

"Failure to invest in research and development will have a significant impact on the United States," Bruininks said. "Perhaps the cautionary statement on the rearview mirror says it best: the object in the mirror is closer than you might think. Go around the world and you will see investments are being made in education, research and development. Our competitors are closing the gap. We need to take this issue seriously, we need to invest in education and we need to invest in research."

The coalition believes that Congress and the President need to move forward to achieve the goals of the America COMPETES Act; providing significant and sustainable increases in funding for basic research at NSF, the DOE Office of Science, and NIST as well as strengthening science and mathematics education nationwide.

In addition to Spanier, Bruininks and Augustine, the industry-university coalition was represented by university presidents Richard Brodhead of Duke University (NC); Carol Garrison of the University of Alabama, Birmingham; Michael V. Martin of New Mexico State University; C.D. (Dan) Mote, Jr., of the University of Maryland; and Robert J. Zimmer of the University of Chicago, and Christopher Hansen, president and chief executive officer of the **AeA (American Electronics Association)**. The universities are members of AAU and NASULGC.

The coalition met with Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chair Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), House Science Committee Chair Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN), Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL).

*The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.*

*Founded in 1887, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC, A Public University Association), is an association of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and many state public university systems. Its 217 members enroll more than 3.6 million students, award approximately a half-million degrees annually, and have an estimated 20 million alumni. As the nation's oldest higher education association, NASULGC is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. For more information, visit www.nasulgc.org.*

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