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CONTENTS
CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Campuses Asked to Nominate Candidates for Commerce Department’s Export Control Advisory Committee  NEW
OTHER
OTHER
New York Universities Cosponsor City’s First “World Science Festival”
NGA Looking for Examples of Successful State-University-Industry Partnerships

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The House has been in recess this week; the Senate has conducted no business but has remained in pro forma session to prevent the President from making recess appointments.

The Senate will reconvene for legislative business on Monday, June 2, when the chamber will begin consideration of the Climate Security Act (S. 3036). If the Democratic leadership is able to invoke cloture, the bill could take up most of the week. CQToday reports that the Senate also will have to reconsider the farm bill because trade provisions were accidentally left out of the bill enacted by Congress last week over the President’s veto (P.L. 110-234). The Senate could take up a complete farm bill (H.R. 6124) passed last week by the House or only the missing trade provisions. There may also be a vote next week on the conference report on the FY09 budget resolution (S Con Res 70).

The House will reconvene on Tuesday, June 3. CQToday reports that the schedule includes consideration of a bill to authorize permanently a Chesapeake Bay parks and activities grant program (H.R. 5540) and possibly a school construction measure (H.R. 3021).

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

CAMPUSES ASKED TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR COMMERCE DEPARTMENT’S EXPORT CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  NEW

The Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is seeking candidates for its new Emerging Technology and Research Advisory Committee (ETRAC). This technical advisory group will help BIS “ensure that export controls continue to apply to sensitive items and keep pace with technological and research innovation without stifling U.S. competitiveness.” Responsibilities will include recommending which technologies need to remain on or be added...
to the agency’s technology control list, and addressing the implications of dual-use export control rules on research activities.

AAU universities are strongly encouraged to nominate highly qualified candidates from their campuses who would be willing to serve on the advisory committee. Service on the panel is for one year, and individuals are required to hold a secret security clearance prior to appointment. Additional details about the advisory committee and nominee requirements are available in a May 23 Federal Register notice. Nominations must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on June 24, 2008.

Participation on the advisory committee is an important opportunity for the academic community to assist the federal government in developing dual-use policies that both protect national security and allow the appropriate participation of foreign students and scholars in research activities on university campuses. The advisory committee was created to implement a recommendation by the Commerce Secretary’s Deemed Export Advisory Committee to reduce the number of technologies controlled by deemed export rules. This recommendation was endorsed by AAU and the Council on Governmental Relations.

AAU does not plan to submit a formal list of nominees for the advisory committee but would appreciate members of the CFR providing AAU staff with the names of nominees their campuses submit. The staff contact at AAU is Tobin Smith at toby_smith@aau.edu or 202-408-7500.

OTHER

NEW YORK UNIVERSITIES COSPONSOR CITY’S FIRST “WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL”

A group of academic, scientific, and cultural institutions, including Columbia University and New York University, have partnered with the city of New York to produce a five-day event to showcase New York as a center of scientific research and education and to improve public perceptions of science. The first annual “World Science Festival,” which began on Wednesday, May 28, and will last through Sunday, June 1, seeks to “transform the public perception of science by producing high caliber programs that make science exciting, accessible, compelling, and inspirational.”

The festival began with a May 28 meeting at Columbia University of 125 leaders from science, business, government, media, and academia to explore how scientific discoveries will shape the world of tomorrow. Among the more than 40 public events around the city is a presentation by actor Alan Alda of his new play, “Dear Albert: A Reading for the Stage,” based on the letters of Albert Einstein and his family and friends. A session on future cities will feature the planner behind China’s first eco-city, an inventor of stackable cars, and a pioneer of urban farming who will lay out radical ideas for housing, feeding, transporting, and sustaining city dwellers of the not-too-distant future. Other sessions will showcase the science behind Walt Disney “Imagineering,” the science of sport, and the biological foundations of music.

Additional information about the festival is available here.

NGA LOOKING FOR EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL STATE-UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS
The National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices is seeking examples of how states are assisting in the development and improvement of university-industry partnerships for economic development. The Center is particularly interested in partnerships that involve consortia of companies and colleges and universities within a state. The purpose of this project is to identify and examine state policies and programs that foster such partnerships, as well as to gather information from companies and universities about what additional role states might play in helping to meet economic and workforce development goals through such partnerships. The results of the project will be published in a report.

Members of the CFR who would like to share examples or learn more about the NGA project are asked to contact Erin Lamos at elamos@nga.org or 202-624-7794.

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