June 14, 2006

Presidents of Research Universities Support the American Competitiveness Initiative Now Being Considered By Congress

We, the undersigned members of the Association of American Universities (AAU), support the President's American Competitiveness Initiative and believe that, if funded, it will add significantly to the nation's ability to compete in science and technology.

The fifty-year tradition of federal funding of research at U.S. universities has led to major discoveries in science and technology that have contributed to America's world leadership by stimulating economic growth and prosperity. Merit-based federal research funding, which typically employs peer review, has been critical to the strength of this national research enterprise.

We support the principle that all research funding under the American Competitiveness Initiative should be awarded on the basis of merit, preferably based on peer review. This position is consistent with the AAU Statement on Preserving Merit Review in Federal Funding of University Research. As presidents and chancellors of research universities, we pledge that our institutions will not seek earmarks for research funding from programs implemented under the American Competitiveness Initiative.

President Jehuda Reinharz
Brandeis University

President Ruth Simmons
Brown University

President David Baltimore
California Institute of Technology

Interim President Gregory Eastwood
Case Western Reserve University

President Lee C. Bollinger
Columbia University

Interim President Hunter R. Rawlings
Cornell University

President Richard H. Brodhead
Duke University

President James W. Wagner
Emory University
President Lawrence H. Summers
Harvard University

President Susan Hockfield
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

President Shirley M. Tilghman
Princeton University

President Shirley Kenny
Stony Brook University, The State University of New York

President Peter Likins
The University of Arizona

President David Skorton
The University of Iowa

President Scott S. Cowen
Tulane University

Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau
University of California, Berkeley

President Gregory L. Geoffroy
Iowa State University

President John Sexton
New York University

President John L. Hennessy
Stanford University

Chancellor Nancy Cantor
Syracuse University

President William R. Brody
The Johns Hopkins University

President Don Michael Randel
The University of Chicago

Chancellor James C. Moeser
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

President John B. Simpson
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
Chancellor Michael V. Drake  
University of California, Irvine

Chancellor Marye Anne Fox  
University of California, San Diego

Interim Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano  
University of Colorado at Boulder

President C.D. Mote  
University of Maryland, College Park

President David B. Frohnmayer  
University of Oregon

President Joel Seligman  
University of Rochester

President John T. Casteen  
University of Virginia

Chancellor John D. Wiley  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Chancellor Larry N. Vanderhoef  
University of California, Davis

Chancellor Albert Carnesale  
University of California, Los Angeles

Chancellor Henry T. Yang  
University of California Santa Barbara

President J. Bernard Machen  
University of Florida

President Mary Sue Coleman  
University of Michigan

President Amy Gutmann  
University of Pennsylvania

President Steven B. Sample  
University of Southern California

President Mark A. Emmert  
University of Washington
Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton
Washington University in St. Louis

Chancellor E. Gordon Gee
Vanderbilt University

President Richard C. Levin
Yale University