



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2010

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

AAU STATEMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S FY2011 BUDGET

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the [Association of American Universities](#) (AAU) on the President's FY11 budget, which the Administration released today.

On behalf of AAU's 60 leading U.S. research universities, I commend President Obama for proposing a budget that maintains his commitment to invest in education, research, and innovation, even as he proposes to freeze overall domestic discretionary spending. This budget underscores the President's strong conviction that the nation's investments in the people and ideas that lead to discovery and innovation are critical to short-term economic recovery and, especially, to long-term economic prosperity.

Congressional leaders have displayed a similar commitment, and it is our hope that Congress will sustain the momentum for funding of key research and financial aid programs.

With respect to particular areas of the budget:

The Administration's 3.2%, \$1 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health is the largest proposed dollar and percentage increase for biomedical research in eight years, not including last year's Recovery Act funding. Today's opportunities in medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health merit even greater funding, but, given our large budget deficits and the top-line freeze in domestic discretionary spending, this request for NIH confirms the Administration's strong commitment to sustaining our nation's biomedical research capacity.

The Administration budget also provides very strong support to other critical research agencies, including a substantial 8-percent increase for the National Science Foundation and significant increases for research at the Department of Energy, including the Office of Science and ARPA-E. These investments are essential to our ability to maintain our global leadership in innovation and build an economy that addresses our national challenges and creates the high-paying jobs that are the foundations of economic prosperity.

We appreciate the President's proposed increase in the Pell Grant program and his support for ensuring its long-term health and stability by making it an entitlement. Improving access to

college for our young people is essential to preparing our workforce for 21st century challenges, and the Pell Grant remains our best tool for aiding students from low-income families.

We hope that Congress will be able to restore the proposed cut in funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The relatively small amount of money this saves, \$6 million, contributes little to the effort to maintain an overall spending freeze, but it has a significant impact on the Endowment's ability to support humanities research and education.

#####

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.