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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

AAU URGES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE \$155 MILLION FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES IN FY16

As the leading source of federal support for humanities research and related activities, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provides critical grant funding for the activities of hundreds of educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and individual scholars nationwide. In the past three years alone, more than 3,000 faculty at higher education institutions and 7,700 high school teachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, benefitting an estimated 1.4 million students.

A funding level of \$155 million would allow the agency to start to re-build its capacity to support peer-reviewed humanities research and education programs. Currently funded at \$146 million, NEH is at its lowest funding level, in constant dollars, since 1971.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE HUMANITIES IS CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS AND CONTINUED STATUS AS A WORLD LEADER

A robust humanities education is critical to cultivating a broadly educated workforce ready to compete in the knowledge-based, global economy of the 21st century. From the basic building blocks of early education, to the highest levels of academic attainment, humanities fields provide individuals from all disciplines, including science, technology, engineering & mathematics (STEM), with skills, competencies, and expertise needed by the government, private, and nonprofit sectors.

The Heart of the Matter report developed by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences national Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences found that while China and other countries are increasingly emphasizing humanities education as part of their innovation and economic competitiveness strategy, the United States' investment in this area has shrunk. The report argues that fields such as history and languages are as essential to a competitive workforce as competency in the STEM fields.

Humanities graduates are more widely distributed throughout different economic sectors than degree holders in most other fields:

- More than 2.5 million Americans are engaged in a broad range of professions that allow them to use their humanities education in fields including public administration, law, national security/intelligence, international trade, and health.
- 84 percent of students who earned a degree in the humanities are satisfied with their choice of major a year after graduation, according to the *Humanities Indicators Report Card* (2013).

A background in the humanities is highly attractive to the majority of employers who want new hires to have critical thinking skills, the ability to solve complex problems, and strong communication skills, according to *It Takes More Than a Major* (Association of American Colleges and Universities 2013).

Our country's success in meeting economic, global, and national security challenges depends on our understanding of both technological and scientific complexities, as well as larger social and international issues. By supporting the humanities fields, we enrich our understanding of these complex issues while providing these individuals with opportunities to apply their expertise to solving our nation's grand challenges.

LESS THAN A PERCENT

In 2011, humanities research funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities constituted only 0.48% of all Federal research funding at colleges and universities. - *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*

NEH COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

AAU remains concerned about the long-term erosion of funding for NEH competitive grant awards for nonprofit institutions and scholars, including grants in the following divisions: Research, Education, Preservation & Access, Challenge Grants, Public Programs, and Digital Humanities.

NEH competitive grants are known for their quality and ability to leverage non-federal funding. NEH grants are at the lowest funding rate in NEH's almost 50-year history. NEH fellowship were funded at seven percent in FY14. NEH faculty awards were funded at eight percent in FY14. NEH summer stipends were funded at eight percent. As the number of quality applications has increased by 11 percent since FY08 and overall funding has decreased by seven percent, the agency's capacity goes into further decline.

Within the competitive programs, AAU supports the continuation of current policy allowing graduate students to participate in select NEH programs. This provides opportunities for collaboration among students and faculty, similar to those in the sciences, and helps to sustain the pipeline of young humanities researchers and scholars. Since 2010, graduate students have been eligible to participate in college-level Summer Seminars and Institutes sponsored by NEH.

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Boston University ★ Brandeis University ★ Brown University ★ California Institute of Technology ★ Carnegie Mellon University ★ Case Western Reserve University ★ Columbia University ★ Cornell University ★ Duke University ★ Emory University ★ Georgia Institute of Technology ★ Harvard University ★ Indiana University ★ Iowa State University ★ The Johns Hopkins University ★ Massachusetts Institute of Technology ★ McGill University ★ Michigan State University ★ New York University ★ Northwestern University ★ The Ohio State University ★ The Pennsylvania State University ★ Princeton University ★ Purdue University ★ Rice University ★ Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey ★ Stanford University ★ Stony Brook University – State University of New York ★ Texas A&M University ★ Tulane University ★ The University of Arizona ★ University at Buffalo, The State University of New York ★ University of California, Berkeley ★ University of California, Davis ★ University of California, Irvine ★ University of California, Los Angeles ★ University of California, San Diego ★ University of California, Santa Barbara ★ The University of Chicago ★ University of Colorado, Boulder ★ University of Florida ★ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ★ The University of Iowa ★ The University of Kansas ★ University of Maryland, College Park ★ University of Michigan ★ University of Minnesota, Twin Cities ★ University of Missouri-Columbia ★ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ★ University of Oregon ★ University of Pennsylvania ★ University of Pittsburgh ★ University of Rochester ★ University of Southern California ★ The University of Texas at Austin ★ University of Toronto ★ University of Virginia ★ University of Washington ★ The University of Wisconsin-Madison ★ Vanderbilt University ★ Washington University in St. Louis ★ Yale University