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In this Issue:

Through the NSC Alliance partnership with the American Institute of Biological Sciences, we are pleased to provide NSC Alliance members with the following public policy update. With proper attribution to NSC Alliance, all material from these reports may be reproduced or forwarded. We encourage you to share this report with colleagues at your institution. Anyone interested in receiving copies of the NSC Alliance Washington Report may subscribe at http://www.NSCAlliance.org-- it's free!

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding any of the following items, please contact NSC Alliance director of public policy Dr. Robert Gropp at 202-628-1500 x 250 or at rgropp@aibs.org.

NSC Alliance 2019 Collections Policy and Advocacy Meeting: Register Now

Registration is now open for the NSC Alliance 2019 membership meeting, Collections Policy and Advocacy. Learn more about the meeting, including a draft agenda, and register at http://nscalliance.org/?page_id=1084. All NSC Alliance member institutions are encouraged to participate. In addition to providing an opportunity for NSC Alliance members to network and exchange information with each other, this meeting provides a platform for the community to interact with federal program officers and policymakers. The meeting will explore opportunities for the community to work collectively to promote new investments in natural science collections, and opportunities to inform or reform regulatory policies impacting collections.

Questions about the meeting can be directed to Robert Gropp at rgropp@aibs.org or 202-628-1500 x 250.

Congress Extends Stopgap Funding, but President Threatens Shutdown

A partial government shutdown was averted on December 6, 2018, when Congress passed a second stopgap appropriations bill to fund the government through December 21, 2018. The bill funds at fiscal year (FY) 2018 levels federal agencies for which FY 2019 appropriations have not

yet been signed into law, including the Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Science Foundation.

Congress had approved several FY 2019 funding bills before going into recess prior to the midterm elections and had passed a continuing resolution to fund the remaining agencies at FY 2018 levels until December 7. Lawmakers planned to complete work on FY 2019 appropriations during the lame-duck session but negotiations over funding President Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall and the death of former President George H.W. Bush kept lawmakers from reaching a deal on the spending bills.

During a widely reported Oval Office meeting on December 11, 2018, with congressional Democratic leaders, the President offered to take ownership of a government shutdown if Congress does not provide his requested $5 billion for a border wall along the Mexican border. The President's willingness to shutter the government over the wall drew concern from Senate Republicans who questioned the intent. However, many believe it was a play to rally his base amid growing legal and political turmoil impacting the Administration.

NASA Seeks Input on Biodiversity

The NASA Biological Diversity and Ecological Forecasting programs have established a Working Group to develop a report exploring the questions, challenges and opportunities for the two programs over the next decade. As part of this process, they are soliciting input from the broad community in the form of one-page "White Papers."

This is an opportunity to share your thoughts on the future of these programs. Submissions should be sent to nasawhitepaper@jpl.nasa.gov.

The deadline for submissions is January 14, 2019. More information at: https://cce.nasa.gov/cce/announc_20181120.htm

NSF BIO Lifts Proposal Cap

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has rescinded its decision to limit researchers to only one proposal submission per year to NSF's Biological Sciences Directorate's (BIO) three core programs as a principal investigator (PI) or co-PI.

In October 2017, BIO had announced a no-deadline system for proposal submissions with the goal to reduce the number of rejected proposals that were later resubmitted without major changes and to encourage collaborations between scientists. The policy of limiting the number of proposals that a PI or Co-PI could submit to a given division annually was implemented in August 2018 with the objective of "ensuring that BIO's merit review process would not be overwhelmed with the move to no deadlines." Under the policy, researchers were restricted to submitting only one proposal each to the three core programs, namely the Divisions of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, Integrative Organismal Systems, and Environmental Biology, and two

proposals to Division of Biological Infrastructure. In addition, researchers could submit one proposal to the Rules of Life track each year.

The biological research community was critical of the policy and expressed concerns that the limits would hamper collaboration and discourage early-career scientists.

On November 15, Dr. Joanne Tornow, Acting Assistant Director of BIO issued a statement announcing that BIO will reverse the policy because of concerns expressed by the community. "BIO places a high value on collaboration and on fostering careers of new investigators; thus, we held internal discussions to consider ways to address these concerns. In addition, relatively few proposals have been submitted to BIO since the release of the solicitations," said Tornow. "Having listened to community concern and tracked the current low rate of submission, and following extensive internal consultation, BIO is lifting all PI or co-PI restrictions on proposal submission for FY 2019, effective immediately."

Science Insider reported that the decision was welcomed by the research community. "It's a big credit to Joanne [Tornow] and Alan Tessier [Deputy Assistant Director of BIO] that they were willing to have so many phone calls and conversations with us," said Kenneth Halanych, a zoologist at Auburn University in Alabama and one of the 70 researchers who wrote to the agency.

NIH to Allow Unrestricted Access to Genomic Summary Results

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced that it will allow unrestricted access to genomic summary results from most NIH-funded studies for health or research purposes. However, access to summary results from research studies that have privacy concerns will continue to be restricted. This update to the data management procedures related to the NIH Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy is based upon input from stakeholders as well as feedback from the public as requested by the Agency in September 2017.

Read more about the update here: https://osp.od.nih.gov/scientific-sharing/genomic-data-sharing/

NSF Seeks Community Input on Fundamental Biological Research

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) is requesting input from the community on fundamental biological research questions and topics, specifically on the idea of creating "Integration Institutes for Cross-cutting Biology" to integrate diverse sub-disciplines of biology and support collaborative teams of researchers. NSF seeks ideas that span multiple levels of organization in living systems and require expertise from diverse biological subdisciplines.

The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2019. The Request for Information is available here: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19027/nsf19027.jsp

Graduate Student Opportunity: Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award

Are you a science graduate student looking to make a difference in science policy and funding? The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) is now accepting applications for the 2019 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award. This award recognizes graduate students in the biological sciences who are demonstrating an interest and aptitude for working at the intersection of science and policy.

Recipients of the AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award receive:

- A trip to Washington, DC, to participate in the AIBS Congressional Visits Day, an annual event where scientists meet with lawmakers to advocate for federal investment in the biological sciences, with a primary focus on the National Science Foundation. The event will be held on March 25-27, 2019. Domestic travel and hotel expenses are paid for the winners.
- Policy and communications training, including information on the legislative process and trends in federal science funding, and how to engage with policymakers and the news media.
- Meetings with lawmakers to discuss the importance of federal investment in the biological sciences.
- A one-year AIBS membership, including a subscription to the journal *BioScience* and a copy of "Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media."

The 2019 award is open to U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents enrolled in a graduate degree program in the biological sciences, science education, or a closely allied field. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to science policy and/or science education policy. Prior recipients, including Honorable Mentions, are not eligible for the award.

Applications are due by 05:00 PM Eastern Time on January 14, 2019. The application guidelines can be downloaded at http://www.aibs.org/public-policy/eppla.html.

Enhance your Interdisciplinary and Team Science Skills

Reports abound from professional societies, the Academies, government agencies, and researchers calling attention to the fact that science is increasingly an inter-disciplinary, transdisciplinary, inter-institutional, and international endeavor. In short, science has become a "team sport."

There is a real and present need to better prepare scientists for success in this new collaborative environment. The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) is responding to this call with a new program for scientists, educators, and individuals who work with or participate in scientific teams.

Team science is increasingly common in 21st century biological, life, and environmental sciences. Collaboration is no longer limited to sharing ideas with the biologist in the lab next

door. The questions confronting science often require teams that may include a mix of computer and information scientists, physical and social scientists, mathematicians, ethicists, policy and management experts, as well as community stakeholders and citizen scientists. Adding to this complexity, teams span programs within organizations, cross organization boundaries to form institutional consortia, and often include international partners.

This intensive, two-day, interactive, professional development course was designed by scientists and experts on collaboration and teamwork to provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to become productive and effective members of scientific teams. From its first offering the course has evolved to include a greater focus on team planning and teamwork, and less time allocated to university administration of interdisciplinary teams.

Nothing teaches collaboration like practicing collaboration. This is not a course that asks you to learn in isolation. It is a microcosm of scientific collaboration, with extensive hands-on learning as part of a scientific team, with scientific case studies and examples.

This course is designed for anyone involved in collaborative scientific endeavors. Team leaders will find the course especially helpful. Because participants will work on "real-world" team science concerns, we encourage multiple members of a team to attend together. We can also customize the course and bring it to your university, department, lab, or research team. This course provides the right foundation from which your team can successfully accomplish your goals.

The program will be held on January 14-15, 2019 in Washington DC. NSC Alliance members are eligible to register for the program at a significantly discounted registration rate. Learn more at https://www.aibs.org/events/team_science_event.html.

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit association that serves as an advocate for natural science collections, the institutions that preserve them, and the research and education that extend from them for the benefit of science, society, and stewardship of the environment. NSC Alliance members are part of an international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbariums, universities, and other institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities. Website: www.NSCAlliance.org.

The NSC Alliance Washington Report is a publication of the NSC Alliance. For information about membership in the NSC Alliance, please contact dbosnjak@aibs.org.