Overview of Federal Funding Agency Priorities and Interdisciplinary Themes

Office of Government and Community Relations

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• Budget Outlook for Federally-Funded Research
• Interagency Research Themes and Initiatives
• Specific Agency Activities and Directions
• Georgia Tech’s Federal Funding Priorities
• Federal agencies implementation of sequestration.
  – Efforts to protect essential priorities.
• Finalization of FY 2013 federal funding – March 2013.
  – Omnibus bill provides some additional flexibility, but many research programs still affected.
• President’s FY 2014 budget request proposes sustained increases for many major science accounts; basic research has best chance of receiving bipartisan support.
• Undetermined path for mandatory spending reductions for healthcare, education, etc.
Sequester is Here... For How Long?

Source: Steve Sack, Star Tribune
• Broad agreement that this is bad policy – divergent views over what’s better.
• Biggest impact already occurring – affecting agency attitudes.
• Final FY 2013 bills – Congress provides more flexibility and differential increases for some agencies.
• Largest impact on future awards:
  – Many NIH institutes: Already have implemented lower pay-lines (~10% success rate).
  – NSF: Delayed solicitations, fewer awards.
  – Large projects will be subject to reductions.
• New initiatives favored but also most susceptible to delay.
• Agency program managers are holding highly scored proposals in reserve if sequestration is reversed.
• Obligated funds protected.
• Universities have to adjust to relatively flat federal research budgets for coming years.
• Will be efforts to return to more *regular* order for spending in FY 2014 or 2015.
• R&D and basic research still a TOP priority on both sides of the aisle.
• New initiatives still expected in the current environment.
• Public-private partnerships will remain the favored mechanism for large-scale efforts.
# Research Funding in President's FY 2014 Budget Request

* Does not include rescissions or sequestration

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<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>7,373,100</td>
<td>7,393,100</td>
<td>7,625,780</td>
<td>252,680 (3.4%)</td>
<td>232,680 (3.2%)</td>
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<td>DOE Science</td>
<td>4,992,052</td>
<td>4,903,461</td>
<td>5,152,752</td>
<td>160,700 (3.2%)</td>
<td>249,291 (5.1%)</td>
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<td>NASA Science</td>
<td>4,911,200</td>
<td>5,144,000</td>
<td>5,017,800</td>
<td>106,600 (2.2%)</td>
<td>-127,000 (2.5%)</td>
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<td>DOD Basic Research</td>
<td>2,116,874</td>
<td>2,130,275</td>
<td>2,164,934</td>
<td>48,060 (+2.3%)</td>
<td>34,659 (1.6%)</td>
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<td>NIH</td>
<td>30,698,000</td>
<td>31,057,115</td>
<td>31,331,387</td>
<td>633,387 (2.1%)</td>
<td>274,272 (0.8%)</td>
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<td>USDA (AFRI)</td>
<td>325,000</td>
<td>297,956</td>
<td>383,376</td>
<td>58,376 (18.0%)</td>
<td>85,420 (28.7%)</td>
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Interagency Research Themes and Initiatives
Multi-agency research priorities for FY 2014:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Materials Research
- Big Data
- Innovation and Commercialization
- Graduate Education
- Mental Health and Gun Control
- Urban Opportunity
- Cybersecurity
- International
- Energy and Environment
- Neuroscience
- Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation
Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) launched in June 2011.

DOD, DOE, NSF, DOC/NIST, and NASA all involved in the effort.

Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO) hosted by NIST to coordinate interagency efforts.
  - White Paper/Roundtable opportunities for input.

Timeline:
  - March 2012 – President Obama announced $1 billion proposed National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI).
  - August 2012 – First NNMI pilot awarded to Ohio in Additive Manufacturing.
  - May 2013 – Three new pilot competitions announced – two from DOD, one from DOE.
• Materials Genome Initiative launched in 2011 to integrate computational and experimental tools to speed material design.
  – NSF, DOE, DOD, and NIST main agencies involved
  – More individual agency activities (e.g. MRSEC) than new interagency programs
  – Administration interest in data sharing/standards, computational training, commercialization
  – 2nd year anniversary (June 2013)
• National Nanotechnology Initiative continues.
  – Focus on commercialization and founding of new industries
  – Signature initiatives in nanomanufacturing, sensors, solar energy, and nanoelectronics
• DOD and DOE focus on replacement and recycling of critical rare materials.
• NSF Materials 2022 report on instrumentation funding:
  – Focus on funding for instrumentation development, professional instrumentation staff, Materials Discovery Centers
• Obama Administration Big Data initiative launched March 2012.
  – Focus on new tools and techniques to manage vast and complex data sets.
  – NSF, NIH, DOD, and DOE are most engaged agencies.
  – Individual agency programs more predominant than interagency activities.
  – Joint NSF-NIH Big Data Competition.
    • First round was very competitive – 560 proposals submitted
• NIH Big Data to Knowledge initiative announced December 2012.
  – Data sharing and big data tools.
  – Enhance training in computational skills for biomedical researchers.
    • RFI out now with comments due March 15
  – New Centers of Excellence for Biomedical Big Data.
    • Request for Applications (RFA) expected in Spring.
    • Up to 15 investigator-initiated centers and between 2 and 5 NIH-directed centers through FY 2014 and FY 2015.
Administration sees innovation as key priority to support the U.S. economy.

Administration and federal agencies are exploring ways to reduce the barriers in the translation of research results into new products, industries, and jobs.

Increased focus at federal agencies on:

- Public-private partnerships (e.g. NNMI).
- Innovation training (e.g. NSF I-Corps program).
- Translational science/drug development (e.g. NCATS at NIH).
- Support for proof of concept funding (e.g. NHLBI CAI; NSF AIR).
- Efforts to use low cost innovations to support change (e.g. USAID DIV).
• New thinking on graduate education throughout federal agencies.
• NSF IGERT would evolve into NSF Research Traineeships (NRT) – would support institutional training programs focused on areas of need for both the federal government and the STEM enterprise.

• General themes:
  – Preparation for alternate careers
  – Diversity
  – Interdisciplinary skills
  – Industrial and international experience
  – Ability to address social issues
  – Sustainability/retention

• NIH has new Biomedical Research Workforce and Diversity Initiatives.
  – Awards for innovative approaches to enhance traditional graduate training.
  – New Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity program to support mentoring and scholarships.
  – Big Data to Knowledge initiative looking at interdisciplinary training.

• NSF in rethinking stage for 2013 – New GROW program to support international experiences for fellows; potential for additional changes and new models.
White House Executive Order; State of the Union; Congressional Legislation; and President’s FY 2014 Budget Request.

• Research:
  – CDC can now conduct research on causes/prevention of gun violence.
  – Seek innovative technologies to advance gun safety.
  – NIH/CDC restriction on funding for research incorporating firearm issues.
  – OSTP interagency working group on neuroscience.
  – Finalizing mental health parity legislation.
  – NAS study on impact of violent video games.

• Treatment:
  – Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education for detection and services for students.

• Workforce training:
  – Members of Congress seeking data.
  – Hiring incentives for schools in need of mental health professionals.
  – Funding for mental and behavioral health education and training.
• President Obama still a champion for urban initiatives, emphasis on working toward comprehensive solutions (education, housing, transportation):
  – HUD’s Sustainable Communities (rebranded Integrated Planning and Investment Grants for FY 2014)
  – HUD’s Choice Neighborhoods (continuum of HOPE VI program)
  – ED’s Promise Neighborhoods
  – CNCS’ Social Innovation Fund
• BUT Congress not fully bought-in—only limited support.
• New in FY 2014 Budget Request:
  – Promise Zones: Aligning Choice and Promise Neighborhoods programs, as well as providing tax incentives, to 20 communities with a high concentration of poverty—will be competitively awarded.
• President Obama likely to increase emphasis on urban initiatives after major political battles on budget, immigration, and gun control.
• Emphasis on both research and training/workforce issues.
• Varying approaches on cyber legislation: piecemeal vs. comprehensive.
  – Narrower scope bills already underway re: research/workforce and information sharing.
• Majority of current federal funding to industry; federal government looking to leverage private sector expertise, but opportunities exist for universities—strong emphasis on public-private partnerships.
• In addition to producing research, universities can serve as conveners:
  – Honest brokers.
  – Ability to highlight proven models.
  – Bring industry and other stakeholders together to solve large cyber challenges.
• University funding (smaller scale) still available:
  – NIST NCCOE (NIST currently seeking industry partners—universities scale participation).
  – New NIST Centers of Excellence program (cyber among proposed foci).
  – Ongoing programs and initiatives at NSF, DOD, and DHS—primarily competitive.
• Agencies have mixed views on value of international collaboration amidst budget constraints.
  – NSF and DOD – Globalization an opportunity to leverage limited dollars.
  – NIH – Reducing support for international activities.
  – Agencies looking for low-cost ways to promote collaboration (e.g. NSF role in Global Research Council).

• Science diplomacy forced to back burner as foreign policy focus has shifted to unforeseen areas (Mali, Egypt, Iran, etc.).
  – Administration’s planned pivot to Asia Pacific and Latin America complicated by events in Africa and Middle East.

• USAID and State Department – Use of science, technology, and innovation to modernize global development a top priority.
  – USAID programs including HESN, Development Innovation Ventures, and Grand Challenges for Development continue to provide opportunities.
• Administration remains focused on development of clean energy technologies to spur economic growth; limited dollars will be allocated to a few large programs.
• Congressional Republicans largely opposed to funding for climate change initiatives; however, resurgence of interest in climate change policies (cap and trade/carbon tax) following SOTU.
• NSF, USDA, and NIH focused heavily on climate, energy, and environment through multidisciplinary initiatives.
• DOD increasingly interested and investing in renewable energy technologies to enhance energy security and stabilize budgeting.
• Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) initiative to revolutionize understanding of the brain and brain diseases
  – Announced April 2 and included in President’s FY 2014 budget proposal
  – DARPA: $50 million to study brain function dynamics and demonstrate breakthrough applications
  – NIH: $40 million to develop new tools, training; working group of ACD will guide effort and suggest priorities
  – NSF: approximately $20 million; workshops
  – Private partners will also contribute, continuing the public-private partnership trend

• Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience to coordinate government-wide activities on brain, learning, cognition
  – Wide range of agencies represented
  – Final report (5-10 key areas of research) expected in June
• Translational research remains a priority for the Administration – NIH and FDA grappling with reinventing clinical enterprise – Better, Faster, Cheaper
  – NCATS established and focused on science translation across diseases/illnesses
  – Streamline development process, decrease development time and cost
  – FDA drug approval process: improved use of science
  – Increase drug pipeline
• Ongoing academia, industry, and federal partnerships
  – Development of multi-CTSA initiatives to increase national capacity for clinical and translational research
  – NIH-FDA-DARPA regulatory science partnership (Tissue Chip for Drug Screening)
  – NCATS collaborating with industry partners to discover new therapeutic uses for existing drugs/molecules
  – NIH making efforts to improve effectiveness of SBIR/STTR programs
Specific Agency Activities and Directions
Focus on interdisciplinary “OneNSF” initiatives aligned with Obama Administration Priorities:
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Cyberinfrastructure Framework for 21st Century Science and Engineering (CIF21)
- NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps)
- Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE)
- Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES)
- Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC)

New Priorities:
- Clean Energy
- Research at the Interface of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Engineering (BioMaPS)
- Cognitive Science and Neuroscience
- Early Career Development (CAREER)
- STEM Education – consolidation of programs across NSF and other government agencies

New Leadership:
- Former director Subra Suresh stepped down, search ongoing
- New leaders in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Geosciences, and Engineering

Policy issues:
- Open access
- Administrative burdens on researchers
- High staff turnover
• Award trends
  – Milestone-driven, collaborative “U” award mechanism utilized more
  – Special consideration for first-time applicants continues; new concerns over achieving second grants
  – FY 2014 President’s budget proposes $106 million (3.6 percent) cut to NIH research center grants, most likely to help preserve funding for individual investigator-initiated grants
  – Some institutes have already decreased use of program project grants (P01)

• NIH structure and policies
  – NCATS finding its feet, but has no funding for new activities
  – NIDA-NIAAA merger cancelled; functional integration being pursued
  – Peer review process under scrutiny to increase innovative projects and improve diversity of grantees
  – OMB grant reform to have minimal effect on NIH grant processes
Each NIH institute/center has been given some flexibility to devise its own operating plan for remainder of FY 2013 (sequestration cuts)

FY 2014 President’s budget request proposes $31.3 billion for NIH; indicative of support, includes a number of initiatives

- BRAIN initiative
- Translational sciences: increased funding proposed for NCATS and its Cures Acceleration Network
- Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K): continuation of NIH working group plans; includes centers of excellence, other activities coordinated with NSF and DOE
- Alzheimer’s disease research: continuation of National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease announced last year; drug and therapeutic development emphasized
- Biomedical workforce initiatives: continuation of NIH working group recommendations on workforce needs and diversity
• Assists patients, caregivers, and providers in making informed evidence-based decisions about health care through clinical effectiveness research
  – Research should answer questions that matter to the patient and caregiver
  – Patients are part of the research team
• Funded research supports PCORI’s *National Priorities for Research* and its *Research Agenda*
  – Four initial advisory panels have recently been established and populated; additional panels likely added in the future
• Two “complementary” funding paths:
  – Supports three broad funding cycles a year
  – Will support targeted funding for five topics in 2013; currently conducting workshops, soliciting input for first set of targeted PFAs expected in June
• Energy research central to driving Administration policy goals (energy security and independence, climate change, advanced manufacturing, sustainability).
  – Energy Innovation Hubs remain hallmark of Administration and combine numerous disciplines across the public-private spectrum; 5 of 8 proposed hubs have been funded to date, Smart Grid Hub again proposed for FY 2014.
  – ARPA-E’s high-risk, high-reward research remains popular with members of both parties; President requests a substantial increase for FY 2014.
• Transitioning leadership leaves DOE without a forceful advocate; Moniz confirmed.
• Challenges to DOE’s research portfolio remain:
  – EERE’s applied research portfolio under scrutiny as duplicative of private-sector.
  – Traditional Office of Science programs pinched as emphasis moves toward Hubs, EERE, and ARPA-E.
  – National labs competing with one another to remain relevant as budgets tighten.
• DOD science and technology programs remain a priority despite funding constraints.
  – New grants could be delayed until FY 2014 and beyond to minimize impact of sequestration; seeking “disruptive technologies.”
  – Air Force and Navy likely long-term funding winners due to Asia pivot.
• Defense Strategic Guidance guiding policy decisions; increased reliance on technology to offset budget reductions budgets and total troop size.
  – Cybersecurity and autonomy will remain emphases regardless of ASD-R&E. Maintaining technological workforce a major concern (particularly cyber); other priorities include big data, manufacturing, energy, and counter-WMD.
  – Social sciences being incorporated across BAAs; future of Minerva uncertain given leadership changes, President proposes steep reduction for FY 2014.
Service Branch Research Offices

- Army Research Office:
  - Continues strong focus around broad basic research topics including physics, materials, computing, engineering, life sciences, and environmental sciences.
  - Emphasis remains around broad scientific areas, but ARO is aligned with crosscutting DOD priorities like big data, manufacturing, and materials.

- Office of Naval Research:
  - Leading funder of basic research across service branches.
  - Priorities include sensors/communications, energy, and portable weapons.

- Air Force Office of Scientific Research:
  - Recent realignment under five new thrust areas reflects increasing interdisciplinary approach to funding research.
  - Priorities include cyber/information science, materials, alternative energy, and communications.
• DARPA:
  – Focused on game-changing R&D around threats of the future; program managers enjoy broad autonomy in funding projects.
  – Cyber/cloud computing, big data, and health/biological research top priorities under new Director Prabhakar.

• DTRA:
  – Basic and applied research on bio/chemical/nuclear/information sciences geared towards countering weapons of mass destruction.
  – Small, but underutilized research opportunity for universities.

• TARDEC:
  – R&D focused on tank and automotive technology; universities can engage through BAAs, CRADAs, and regular programs.
  – Electronics, energy/fuel use, robotics, communications, and materials are core focus areas.
- DHS continues to be an Administration priority; border security, cyber defense, disaster resiliency, immigration enforcement, and terrorist prevention remain the central agency foci.
- The S&T Directorate’s (R&D arm) top foci are:
  - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Defense
  - Disaster Resilience
  - First Responders
  - Cybersecurity
- DHS trying to shift its R&D focus to more field-ready technologies that can be easily adapted for DHS-specific purposes.
  - Universities able to participate in funding projects; existing industry partnerships, especially in areas like cyber, will be key to successfully obtaining research funds.
- Despite recent Congressional support, future DHS S&T funding remains uncertain and could be a target.
• Administration support for Science and Space Technology.
  – Discussions about future of Planetary science and flagship missions.
  – Earth Science “protected” by Administration; climate research a partisan issue in Congress.
  – JWST continues to be major priority within Science Mission Directorate; no new wedges for Astrophysics until JWST is completed.
  – PI-led missions (i.e., Venture Class, Discovery, Explorer) are a high priority.
• Support grows for new Space Technology Mission Directorate.
  – $573 million in FY 2012; in FY 2013, House proposed $632 million and Senate proposed $651 million
  – Future advanced space systems concepts and enabling technology.
  – Across the Technology-Readiness-Level spectrum.
• Top priority science decadal missions putting pressure on smaller programs.
• NASA Human Space Flight program is in flux
  – Dispute about next destination (asteroid?).
• Urban and smart infrastructure a focus area for Administration for the next 4 years. The Administration’s approach and investments to support domestic infrastructure development include:
  – Efforts to improve resilience, monitoring, and other “smart” features embedded in university research.
  – Improving transportation and infrastructure resources is linked to economic growth.
  – Providing access to jobs, revenue, health care, and education.
• Infrastructure renewal emphasized with renewed interest expected as transportation reauthorization bill expires in 2014.
  – University Transportation Centers (UTC) program underwent significant changes in this bill; remains DOT’s flagship university research program.
• DOT’s strategic goals: safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, livable communities, and environmental sustainability – permeate DOT’s research portfolio.
  – Much of the research funding flows through state agencies; opportunities for partnership.
USDA’s core mission (food and nutrition) a high priority for Administration
- Priorities include: childhood obesity prevention, climate change, food safety, global food security, and sustainable bioenergy
- PCAST ag research report (December 2012) calls for a rebalancing of intramural (ARS) and extramural (AFRI) research within USDA

USDA leadership is engaged in research
- Secretary Vilsack staying for Obama’s second term
- NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy well-liked by Hill

AFRI has good support in Congress, despite the fiscal climate
- 2012 House and Senate Farm Bills maintained AFRI’s authorization level at same level as 2008 Farm Bill ($700 million); this level maintained in this year’s versions
- Both House and Senate proposed increases to AFRI for FY 2013; final FY 2013 funding level (before sequestration) is $298 million
- FY 2014 President’s budget request supports increase in AFRI budget to $383 million
- Hard choices for Members of Congress (e.g. Do we feed children (SNAP) or support research?)
• HRSA funding for universities is primarily for training, not research.
• Provides support for training, technical assistance, direct financial assistance to state and local healthcare entities (e.g. for HIV/AIDS or emergency services for children), and very targeted research activities.
• Funding is disbursed thematically through bureaus/offices:
  – Bureau of Health Professions; Bureau of Primary Health Care; Bureau of Maternal and Child Health; Office of Rural Health; Office of Women’s Health.
• Funds provided for:
  – Health Professions (Title VII/VIII programs) – Includes loans/scholarships to students and on-campus training programs covering nursing, geriatrics, public health, dentistry, mental and behavioral health, and other health professions.
  – Health Centers – HRSA’s signature program, funds 1,100+ community-based health centers (e.g. FQHCs).
• Funding for universities provided for information and data dissemination; policy development; grants (service-focused rather than research)
• SAMHSA as resource for data collection
• Strategic Plan → Eight strategic initiatives framing all SAMHSA activities:
  1. prevention
  2. trauma and justice
  3. military families
  4. recovery support
  5. health reform
  6. health information technology
  7. data outcomes and quality
  8. public awareness and support
• Largest programs are state block grants.
• SAMHSA participating in implementation of Gun Violence Reduction Executive Actions and leading National Dialogue on Mental Health activities
  – FY 2014 request includes joint HRSA/SAMHSA funding for new program and increases to overall mental health focused on youth.
Various mechanisms for DOJ funding:
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ) – Competitive funding for universities and researchers through research, evaluation, fellowships.
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – Formula grants to states, sub-grants for universities available but determined by state.

NIJ undergoing long term review
- Creation of advisory board/increase overall transparency
- Strengthen peer review process
- Strengthen graduate training/Enhance pool of researchers
- Increasing push for more “translational research” and evidence-based programs to transform practice and policies

Fiscal year (FY) 2013 solicitations open now
- Solicitations vary year to year depending on research priorities.
- For 2013 these are Community Corrections, Crime Prevention, Firearms, Gangs, and Neighborhoods and Crime

www.crimesolutions.gov
- Resource on “what works” in justice-related programs.
• Despite White House support for cultural agencies, not a priority in this fiscal environment.

• National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
  – University audience: humanities faculty
  – Funding for: Fellowships/Seminars, Challenge Grants, Digital Humanities
    • *We the People* (focus on U.S. culture and history) remains popular with Congress.

• National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
  – University audience: arts, music, dance, literature, design, theater, film, and digital art; not research; grants to institutions, not individuals.
  – Funding for: *Art Works*, *Challenge America*, *Our Town*
  – New Chairman may have new priorities
  – Current effort to partner with other agencies (e.g. Arts and Human Development with HHS).

• Institute for Museum and Library Studies (IMLS)
  – University audience: grants for library/museum operations; not research
  – Funding for: Training for librarians; develop programs to serve middle/high school students (e.g. technology access)
  – Like NEH, support for digital efforts (e.g. *Digging into Data Challenge* – computationally intensive research in the humanities and social sciences.)
• Obama Administration interested in getting education research to the practitioners.

• Advanced Research Policy Agency-Education (ARPA-ED)
  – FY 2012 Budget Request; no funding yet/not yet authorized.
  – Funded projects would address specific identified problems in education (e.g. digital tutors as effective personal tutors; courses that improve as more students use them; educational software as compelling as video games).

• Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
  – Sustained funding levels
  – Emerging foci – Research-Practitioner Partnerships; Researcher and Policymaker Training; evaluation of programs (RttT); statewide longitudinal data systems and how to use them.
  – Possible new R&D Center for education research, contracting opportunities.

• Investing in Innovation (i3) and Race to the Top (RttT)
  – Not yet authorized, but a priority for the Administration.
  – LEA must lead or be a close partner.
  – Focus on Administration policy priorities – STEM, Early Learning, Higher Education/College Cost/Completion
Research

- DoD Basic Research (6.1)
- DoD Applied Research (6.2)
- DARPA
- NSF
- NIH
- ARPA-E
- NASA Space Technology
- DoE Office of Science
- Water Resources Research Institute
- Pediatric Device Consortia
Georgia Tech’s FY14 Federal Funding Priorities

• Economic Development
  – Manufacturing Extension Partnership
  – Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms
  – Procurement Technical Assistance
  – EDA programs
  – Assistive Technology

• Student Aid
  – Pell Grant

• K-12/STEM Ed
  – NASA’s Space Grant College and Fellowship Program
  – Department of Education innovation programs: First in the World, Investing in Innovation and Effective Teaching and Learning

• International Education
What You Can Do To Help

• Work with GT communications officers to highlight the role that federal funding plays in your research breakthroughs and spin-off companies
• Serve on Federal Advisory Committees and National Academy studies
• Volunteer for an IPA or support your faculty who do
• Write your Congressman and Senators
• Read what we send you and give us feedback
• Be careful how you title your projects
• Encourage your students to consider working for the government
Thank you!

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