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NSF Announces Search for New Leader for SBE

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced a search to find a replacement for Myron Gutmann as the Assistant Director (AD) for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE). Gutmann expects to finish his four-year stint at the end of June 2013.

Speaking to the SBE Advisory Committee on November 14, NSF Director Subra Suresh and Deputy Director Cora Marrett strongly praised Gutmann's service. Present at the meeting were four of the five people who have led SBE; Marrett, who was the first, Norman Bradburn, David Lightfoot, and Gutmann.

The NSF leaders announced that Gary Sandefur, Dean of the School of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin and a member of the COSSA Board of Directors, will head the search committee.

Suresh and Marrett asked the members of the Advisory Committee and the SBE community to help identify candidates and to help convince them to serve. The qualifications they outlined include: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the SBE communities, especially in the areas of education and research; expertise with the production, analysis, and dissemination of public data and statistics; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF senior management team.

They welcome recommendations from academia, industry, or government. Those suggestions, including any supporting information should be sent to the AD/SBE screening committee via e-mail (sbesearch@listserve.nsf.gov) or by mail to the National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. These materials should be sent by February 1, 2013.

Environmental Change Board at NAS Reports on the Security Implications of Climate Change

Climate change will increase the frequency with which governments must cope with severe and catastrophic weather events that could have global impacts on our security. To evaluate the U.S.'s capacity to handle these challenges and identify areas at risk, the National Academies' Board on Environmental Change and Society (BECS), chaired by Richard H. Moss, the Joint Global Change Research Institute, released a report on *Climate and Social Stress: Implications for Security Analysis*. The report was authored by the Committee on Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change, chaired by John D. Steinbruner, University of Maryland.

The report describes increasingly severe weather events occurring with greater frequency and often occurring simultaneously across the world. Such events will have unanticipated consequences and affect global systems such as food markets, supply chains, and public health. The impact of climate disruption will be determined by the severity of the weather event; the degree of exposure of people, assets, and systems to the event; and how effective the response is. The authors note that under the right conditions, "even unprecedentedly large climate events" do not necessarily create major threats.

The report argues for a "whole-of-government" approach to understanding security vulnerabilities to climate change. The authors call for research to quantify the likelihoods of potentially disruptive climate events; improve understanding of the conditions under which natural disasters lead to security-relevant outcomes, and integrate social science of natural disasters and response with other forms of analysis.

The authors also advocate "stress testing" the responses of countries, regions, and global systems to climate disasters to identify potential vulnerabilities. They also suggest employing techniques from decision science.

To download the complete report, visit: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=14682.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to Measure Contribution of the Arts to GDP

In a new partnership, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will develop an "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" (ACPSA). This new account will identify and calculate the arts and culture sector's contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The ACPSA will collect detailed information on a select group of arts and cultural goods, services, and industries—both commercial and not-for-profit—that are currently reflected in the GDP.

According to an NEA, the BEA satellite account reflects the NEA's new research agenda, which has begun to look at "impact analysis," or how the arts affect various domains of human life, such as the economy, human development, science and technology, and education. Starting this year, the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account will identify and measure industries and commodities that involve creative or cultural engagement, or help bring creative and cultural goods and services to the public. The arts satellite account will tap into data to which only certain agencies have routine access, and it uses the same methodology as existing BEA satellite accounts on travel and tourism, research and development, and health care.

In 2013, both BEA and NEA will release preliminary estimates on relevant creative and cultural industries, including estimates on annual outputs (such as revenue and expenses), direct and indirect employment, compensation, and "value-added," which refers to an industry's contribution to the economy through its labor and capital, excluding material and energy costs. In 2014, BEA will release final estimates, and publish the findings in *The Survey of Current Business*, a publication for leaders in economics and policy. Additional information is available on the NEA website http://www.nea.gov/news/news12/BEA.html. ■

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