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**The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities: A Report  
for the National Science Foundation**

*Public Discussion Agenda (DRAFT)*

**July 19, 2017**

**National Academies Building  
Lecture Room**

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC

This public event is an opportunity to discuss the newly released National Academies consensus report, *The Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities: A Report for the National Science Foundation*. In response to a request from the National Science Foundation, the National Academies of sciences, Engineering, and Medicine appointed an expert committee to help determine whether the federal government should fund research in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences (SBE). Specifically, the committee was asked to examine whether SBE research furthers the mission of NSF and those of other federal agencies and advances business and industry. The report also offers recommendations to better enable SBE research to meet the nation's priorities and elements to include in future strategic planning.

Members of the authoring committee will present the report's key findings and recommendations. A diverse group of experts will provide brief commentary on the report from their vantage points and in a roundtable discussion consider ways of acting on the report's recommendations. The discussion is designed to establish some common understandings about the report's main messages among SBE scientists, policymakers, and communicators of SBE research, and to begin to identify opportunities to support strategic planning processes at the NSF and the communication of SBE research and the value of NSF-supported projects.

**8:15**            **Check-in**

**9:00**            **Welcome & Introductions**

Mary Ellen O'Connell, Executive Director, Division of Behavioral and Social  
Sciences and Education

Marcia McNutt, President, National Academy of Sciences

**9:10**            **Opening Remarks**

France Córdova, Director, National Science Foundation

**9:20**            **Panel 1: Overview of the Report**

*Alan Leshner*, Committee Chair and CEO Emeritus, American Association for  
the Advancement of Science

*Kathleen Mullan Harris*, Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

*Ron Haskins*, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

*Yannis Yortsos*, Dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California

**10:00 Q&A with committee members**

**10:30 Break**

**10:45 Panel 2: Commentary and Roundtable Discussion**

Experts in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences will respond to the report's main messages from their various vantage points, and engage in a roundtable discussion with committee members focused mainly on possible approaches to implementing the report's recommendations.

Guiding questions for the discussion include:

- (1) What general approaches to strategic planning could be effective given the multiple and diverse SBE disciplines involved? What models have been used successfully to galvanize and advance research fields around big questions and challenges in society and that might be applied to the social, behavioral and economic sciences?
- (2) How might a strategic planning process address specific elements included in the report? These elements include: broad outreach to the scientific community in the establishment of priorities; attention to training and to trends that are occurring in all of science (e.g., team science, data intensive science), collaboration between SBE disciplines and other fields such as engineering and medicine to attack priority scientific questions and societal challenges; specification of required resources; and assessment of progress over time?
- (3) How does the communication of SBE research to national priorities need to be advanced? What are the challenges of communicating the relevance of SBE research to national priorities and how might these be overcome?

**10:45**

**Response:**

*Valerie Reyna*, Professor of Human Development and Psychology, Cornell University

*Robert Groves*, Provost, Georgetown University, and Professor of Math, Statistics and Sociology; Member, National Science Board

*Authur Lupia*, Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan, and Member, SBE Directorate Advisory Committee, NSF

*Cora Marrett*, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and former Deputy Director, National

Science Foundation

**11:15**            **Roundtable discussion**  
**Facilitator:** *Alan Leshner*

**11:45**            **Q&A and discussion with Live and Webcast Audience**  
**Moderator:** *Alan Leshner*

**12:15**            **Closing Remarks**

*Joan Ferrini-Mundy*, Chief Operating Officer, NSF

*Fay Lomax Cook*, Assistant Director, Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences  
Directorate, NSF

**12:30**            **Adjourn:** *Alan Leshner*