About Lewis-Burke

• Founded in 1992; located in Washington, DC

• In 2018, twenty-eight policy experts with range of expertise/backgrounds allow multi-layered issue teams with deep expertise in agencies and scientific/higher education areas

• Support federal relations activities to develop and implement federal strategies to pursue, shape, and create new sources of funding to increase and diversify research portfolio

• Able to engage on multiple levels:
  - Individual faculty (including early career faculty)
  - Teams of faculty
  - Associate Deans for Research
  - Deans and Center Directors
  - University leadership and campus-wide priorities/activities
National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **FY 2018 Omnibus provided increases** for NSF, USDA, DOE, USAID etc. **FLURRY of activity as agencies have only 6 months to obligate funding** – BIG opportunity in supplemental $

- **National Science Foundation**: current focus 10 Big Ideas: **at least $30 million proposed for each** in FY 2019

- **FY 2018 provided $295M increase overall for a total of $7.76B**
  - *Rules of Life (RoL):* Current DCL on UK collab for Bioinformatics and Synthetic Biology
  - *Harnessing the Data Revolution*
  - *Mid-scale Research Infrastructure* –recent RFI
  - *Growing Convergence Research:* DCL for FY 18 due May, up to $1M for 3 years
    - FY 19: $30 million for Convergence Accelerator in Harnessing the Data Revolution

- **PGRP:** may have some changes as part of RoL theme

- **Signals in the Soil (SitS) DCL:** ENG, BIO, CISE, GEO: EAGER grants for sensors, wireless stems, adv cyber systems data analytics, modeling soil ecosystems

- **NSF & NIFA:** funded $3M EAGER plant microbiome and phenomics research in 2017

- **Dimensions of Biodiversity:** FY 18 involved partnerships with China, Brazil, and South Africa

- **Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID):** NIGMS and NIFA: average/$13.5M total

- **NSF INFEWS** (final competition now) but food, energy, water nexus theme continues as a priority

- **NSF STCs:** next solicitation anticipated FY 2019 with awards made in FY 2020, will likely feature 10 Big Ideas
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA received $1.41B, 3.3% increase
  - Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI): FY 18 $48.1M available
- AFRI: **$400M** in FY 18 omnibus:
  - Program changes for FY 18: **Sustainable Agricultural Systems** replaces challenge grants: “convergence S&T to solve food/AG production system challenges” focus on 25-year goals
    - $80M avail for 8 $10M Coop AG Project (CAP) grants: LOI due June 27
  - Foundational and Applied: “plant breeding; biofuels and bioproducts; role of microbiome” topics and a proposed $10M for plant breeding: awaiting RFA
  - Education and Workforce: “strategic pipeline based approach”: awaiting RFA
- ARS: Crop Production and Protection Research Program
Department of Energy (DOE)

- **Office of Science**: FY 2018 Funding: $34.5B, increase of $3.8 billion or 12% over FY 2017
  - Single largest increase was for the Office of Science ($866 million or 16% above FY 2017) because of bipartisan support for basic research in the physical sciences
  - ARPA-E is not eliminated and is increased by 16% to $353 million
  - Basic Energy Sciences (BES): increase of 12% for FY 18
    - $110M for Energy Frontier Research Centers (ERFCs)
  - Biological and Environmental Research (BER): $61M increase for FY 18 and $90M directed to fund 4 Bioenergy Research Centers
    - Early Career Research Program—usually 52 early career scientists and researchers selected each year in the 6 major Office of Science disciplines, Fall 2018 planned for new competition
      - at least $150k per year over five years and must be within 10 years of having received a Ph.D. and untenured assistant or associate professors on tenure track
Other Funding Opportunities

- **$3B increase for NIH overall: National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)**
  - Division of Genetics and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology funded 87 plant-related grants
  - Priority to fund research programs instead of individual research projects
- **USAID:** sustainable agriculture and food security
  - FY 18 omnibus directed that *Feed the Future* develop new partnerships with US institutions and developing countries for institutional capacity building including $15M that should be competed and awarded within 1 year
- **Defense: DARPA**
  - Biological Technologies Office (BTO):
    - Insect Allies Program: insects deliver viruses modified with protective genes to plants
    - Advanced Plant Technologies: next gen ground-based sensor technologies to detect threats
    - Safe Genes: biosafety and biosecurity toolkit to reduce risk and advance genome editing
  - AG as national security issue: BTO Program Officer Blake Bextine is entomologist
    - Annual BTO BAA: interested topics, but outside current program priorities
Questions?
lauren@lewis-burke.com

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
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