This Week in Washington

DECEMBER 14 – DECEMBER 18, 2015
Roby Chatterji, Editor
rchatterji@wpllc.net

Prepared for the Council on Undergraduate Research

This Week in Washington, a weekly publication of WPLLC, provides an overview of upcoming events in Washington, D.C. that are relevant to CUR’s interests. Please use the bookmarks below to navigate to your area of interest.

Weekly Calendar
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Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 14, 2015

Digitization of Natural History Collections
Subject: The National Science Collections Alliance will hold a briefing, “Digitization: New Tools for Increasing the Use of Natural History Collections for Research, Education and Informed Decision-making.”
Participants: Dr. Larry Page, president, Natural Science Collections Alliance; Dr. Barbara M. Thiers, vice president for science administration, New York Botanical Garden; and Dr. Austin Mast, director, Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium, Florida State University.
Time and Location: 2:30 p.m.; SVC-212.
Contact: Register here.

Perkins CTE Coalition Meeting
Subject: The Perkins CTE Coalition will hold a meeting.
Participants: Steve Townsend, legislative aide for Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY); and James Redstone, professional staff member, Majority Staff, Education and the Workforce Committee.
Time and Location: 3:30 p.m.; 2000 M Street, NW, Basement Conference Room A, Washington, DC.
Contact: Call-in Number: 888.426.6840, Passcode: 1177765.

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Public Benefits and Low-Income Students
Subject: The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) will hold an event, “How Public Benefits Programs Can Help Fill the Financial Gaps Facing Low-Income College Students.”
Participants: Doug Lederman, editor and co-founder, *Inside Higher Ed*; Mark Mitsui, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, U.S. Department of Education; Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield, senior policy analyst, CLASP; and Angela Johnson, executive director of enrollment operations, Cuyahoga Community College.

Time and Location: 10:00 a.m.; 1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC.

Contact: Register here.

**Research Synthesis on High Quality Teaching**

Subject: The Education Testing Service (ETS) will hold an event, “What Do We Know About Good Teaching? Results of a Research Synthesis.”

Participants: Gary Sykes, principal research scientist, ETS; and Suzanne Wilson, Neag Endowed Professor of Teacher Education, professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut.

Time and Location: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; 1800 K Street, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC.

Contact: Register here.

**Improving Competency-Based Education**

Subject: Young Invincibles will hold an event, “Improving Competency-Based Education Through Perspectives: Lessons Learned from Students and the Higher Education Community.”

Participants: Julie Peller, director of federal policy, Lumina Foundation; Libby May, vice president of communications, Southern New Hampshire University; Amy Laitinen, director for higher education, New America; and Jennifer Wang, policy director, Young Invincibles.

Time and Location: 2:00 p.m.; 901 K Street, NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC.

Contact: Register here.

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

**Education Stakeholder Forum**

Subject: The Department of Education National Engagement Team will hold an Education Stakeholder Forum.

Participants: Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education; and John King, Deputy Secretary of Education.

Time and Location: 2:30 p.m.; 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ Building, Washington, DC.

Contact: RSVP to EDStakeholder@ed.gov.

**Thursday, December 17, 2015**

**Gates Foundation Reflects on 15 Years Investing in Education**

Subject: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will host an online conversation to introduce the Let’s Talk series that addresses the main issues teachers are facing and focuses on what teachers need to make sure students are college and career ready. Key findings from the first two Let’s Talk releases: *Nobody Knows Teaching Like Teachers and Teaching and Learning for College Readiness* will be shared.


Time and Location: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Register here.

**STEM Equity**

Subject: The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) will hold a webinar, “Solving the Education Equation: A New Plan for Improving STEM Workforce Outcomes Through Academic Equity.”

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Register here.

**Friday, December 18, 2015**

None.

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Future Hearings and Events
Tuesday, January 12, 2016
President Obama will deliver his last State of the Union Address.

On The Floor This Week

Senate Floor:
Consideration of a Consolidated Appropriations Act
Consideration of Legislation to Extend Certain Provisions of the Tax Code

House Floor:
Consideration of a Consolidated Appropriations Act
Consideration of Legislation to Extend Certain Provisions of the Tax Code

Bills to Watch

APPROPRIATIONS

H.R.2250
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (12/11/15 Signed by President; 12/11/15 Passed by Senate; 12/11/15 Passed by House)
This measure is the vehicle for FY2016 continuing appropriations through December 16, 2015.

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (9/30/15 Signed by President; 9/30/15 Passed by Senate; and 9/30/15 Passed by House)
This measure is the vehicle for FY2016 continuing appropriations through December 11, 2015.

H.R.2578 Sponsor: Rep. John Culberson (R-TX)

S. # Sponsor: Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)

H.R.2822 Sponsor: Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA)

S. 1645 Sponsor: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
Sponsor: Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act of FY 2016 (6/24/15 Passed by Appropriations Committee; 6/17/2015 Passed by Subcommittee)

Sponsor: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)
Conference Report to accompany S. 1177 to Reauthorize ESEA
Every Student Succeeds Act (12/10/15 Signed by President; 12/9/15 Passed by Senate; 12/2/15 Passed by House; 11/19/15 Passed by Conference Committee)

Sponsor: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 (7/16/15 Passed by Senate; 4/16/2015 Passed HELP Committee)

Sponsor: Rep. John Kline (R-MN)
Student Success Act (7/8/15 Passed by House; 2/27/2015 Debated and amended on the House Floor; 2/11/15 Passed by Education and the Workforce Committee)

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT (HEA)
Sponsor: Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI)
Higher Education Extension Act of 2015 (9/28/2015 Passed by House)

EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM ACT (ESRA)
Sponsor: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Strengthening Education through Research Act (2/04/2015 Passed HELP Committee)

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Links for Up-to-Date Information on Hearings, Legislation, and Events

U.S. House of Representatives 2016 Schedule
U.S. Senate 2016 Schedule
U.S. House of Representatives 2015 Schedule
U.S. Senate 2015 Schedule
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. Senate Budget Committee
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Federal legislative information

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- Creating meaningful impact.

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