**CGA NEWS**

(11-30-12)

To:       CGA

From:   A۰P۰L۰U Congressional and Governmental Affairs Staff

                     House Passes Bill to Create 55,000 STEM Visas

                     Associations Weigh In on Charitable Deductions

                     APLU, AAU, ACE Announce Changes in Title VI Advocacy

                     ACS Creates YouTube Video on Impact of Fiscal Cliff on Science Funding

                     House Passes Bill to Create 55,000 STEM Visas

By a vote of 245to 139, the House passed this afternoon the STEM Jobs Act, H.R. 6429, offered by the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Lamar Smith (R-TX).  The bill, which previously failed on suspension of the rules, would create 55,000 STEM visas for graduates of Carnegie Foundation rated (very high or high level) research universities with advanced degrees in STEM fields.  The bill does not include biological sciences in the definition of STEM. Unlike the prior version of the bill, it does not prohibit participation by graduates of universities that utilize commission-based international recruiters.

House Democrats who opposed the bill cited the elimination of the diversity visa program as the main source of opposition.  The bill is not expected to be taken up in the Senate in the lame-duck session.  The White House earlier this week issued a [Statement of Administrative Policy](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/legislative/sap/112/saphr6429r_20121128.pdf" \t "_blank), which supported STEM visas, but opposed the measure and urged negotiations on comprehensive immigration reform.

                     Associations Weigh In on Charitable Deductions

Higher education presidential associations last week sent letters to both the President and Congressional leadership urging caution in considering changes to the current laws on charitable deductions.  As CGA members are aware, deductions play a critical role in donations to charitable organizations, including colleges and universities.

Copies of the letters are attached for use by the CGA.

                     APLU, AAU, ACE Announce Changes in Title VI Advocacy

Earlier today, A۰P۰L۰U, the Association of American Universities (AAU), and the American Council on Education (ACE) announced a new model for Title VI international education advocacy that includes a partnership between the three associations in support of the critical programs.  A letter to the CGA from the three associations announcing the new Title VI advocacy efforts as well as the departure of the three associations from the Coalition for International Education is attached.

The letter will also be sent to APLU’s Commission on International Initiatives, which includes the senior international officers of A۰P۰L۰U institutions, with whom CGA members may wish to consult about this issue.

                     ACS Creates YouTube Video on Impact of Fiscal Cliff on Science Funding

The American Chemical Society has created an animated YouTube [video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxfDdH30G6I&feature=youtu.be" \t "_blank) on the impact of the fiscal cliff on science and research funding.