CGA NEWS
(12-7-12)
To:       CGA
From:   A۰P۰L۰U Congressional and Governmental Affairs Staff

·                     ED Issues Early Implementation Date for “Pay As You Earn”

·                     Revised DOD MOU Officially Published Today

·                     PCAST Releases Report Today on Agricultural Preparedness and the Agricultural Research Enterprise

·                     Invitation to Texas A&M Hill Briefing on Nuclear Science on December 11th

·                     Invitation to White House Business Council Call on Fiscal Cliff on December 11th

·                     ED Issues Early Implementation Date for “Pay As You Earn”

The Department of Education announced today that the Obama Administration’s “Pay As You Earn” program will become effective on December 21.  In general terms, the plan would allow borrowers in the income-based repayment program to decrease their monthly payments from the 15 percent of their discretionary income to 10 percent and would allow remaining balances on federal loans after 20 years.  The official announcement is available in today’s Federal Register<[http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-07/pdf/2012-29525.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-07/pdf/2012-29525.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)>.

·                     Revised DOD MOU Officially Published Today

As noted yesterday, the Department of Defense officially published today the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that institutions must sign in order to participate in the tuition assistance program.  The document is available here<[http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-07/pdf/2012-29497.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-07/pdf/2012-29497.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)>.

·                     PCAST Releases Report Today on Agricultural Preparedness and the Agricultural Research Enterprise

The long-awaited President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report, Report for the President on Agricultural Preparedness and The Agriculture Research Enterprise<[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast\_agriculture\_20121207.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_agriculture_20121207.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)>   (News Release<[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast\_ag\_release\_20121207.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_ag_release_20121207.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)>), was released this morning.  The report provides a number of significant findings and makes substantial recommendations for improvements to meet the 21st century challenges. It calls for a renewed commitment to research, innovation and technology development in agriculture along with a new annual investment of $700 million for graduate and post-doctoral fellowships and competitively awarded research.

        Invitation to Texas A&M Hill Briefing on Nuclear Science on December 11th

Interested CGA are encouraged to attend and share the attached invitation with your delegations for a Congressional briefing held by Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and the Nuclear Energy Institute on:

The Role of Research Universities in Nuclear Science, Energy, and Policy
December 11, 2012
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Panel Discussion: 4:00 to 5:15 p.m.  (RHOB 2318)
Reception: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  (RHOB 2325)

RSVP to vbrak@tamus.edu<mailto:vbrak@tamus.edu> or [http://vpr.tamu.edu/nuclearpanel](http://vpr.tamu.edu/nuclearpanel%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

The briefing invitation also attached.

·                     Invitation to White House Business Council Call on Fiscal Cliff on December 11th

The White House Business Council has shared the following invitation for a call on the fiscal cliff and economic competitiveness for Tuesday, Friday, December 11, at 12 PM ET.  Details from the White House email about the call are pasted below (it includes the call-in information).

This is expected to be a very large call.

We write to invite you and your networks to join us for our next conference call with senior Administration officials on the President’s plan for the budget and the current situation regarding the fiscal cliff. The call will take place on Tuesday, December 11, at 12:00 p.m. EST / 9:00 a.m. PST (there is no call today). The purpose of this call is to engage in a conversation on the issues important to you as business leaders – and what specific action steps we can take in partnership to achieve our shared goals.  The call is off the record and closed to press.  If you have any questions, please contact info@businessfwd.org<mailto:info@businessfwd.org>.

Call details:
WHAT:                 White House Business Leader Call
WHEN:                 Tuesday, December 11, 2012
Start Time:          12:00 p.m. EST/9:00 a.m. PST
Dial In:                  (800) 288-8976 – Conference Number: 270477
Note:                    This call is off the record and not for press purposes.

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