

Memo



To: CASC Executive Committee & Membership
From: Sue Fratkin, CASC Washington Liaison
Date: November 8, 2005
Re: CASC Participation in Washington Organizations

CASC currently participates as a member of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC), the Presidents Council of the Council on Competitiveness and collaborates with the Computer Research Association (CRA). These organizations provide their members with the opportunity to exchange information and collaborate on outreach, and to present information to members of Congress and the public on issues of critical importance to the scientific development of the nation.

Current Memberships:

CNSF is an alliance of over 100 organizations united by a concern for the future vitality of the national science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise. CNSF supports the goal of increasing the national investment in the National Science Foundation's research and education programs in response to the unprecedented scientific, technological, and economic opportunities facing the United States. Annual dues are \$80 per year; participation in the annual CNSF Spring exhibition on Capitol Hill amounts to approximately \$800, including sponsorship, table costs and printing.

The ESC is a broad based coalition of organizations representing scientists, engineers and mathematicians in universities, industry and national laboratories who are committed to supporting and advancing the scientific research programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE), and in particular, the DoE Office of Science. The ESC recognizes the critical and unique role that DoE science plays in advancing basic research in the United States and in bringing new technologies to the marketplace. The ESC works with DoE officials and policy makers on Capitol Hill and in the Administration to enhance the quality and understanding of the science supported by the DOE. In accordance with this role, the ESC believes it is critical for policy makers and the general public to understand that DOE is the leading source of federal support for the physical sciences in the nation.

The Computing Research Association (CRA) is an association of more than 200 North American academic departments of computer science, computer engineering, and related fields; laboratories and centers in industry, government, and academia engaging in basic computing research; and affiliated professional societies. CRA's mission is to strengthen research and advanced education in the computing fields, expand opportunities for women and minorities, and improve public and policymaker understanding of the importance of computing and computing research in our society.

CASC has joined with CRA in submitting testimony before the House Science Committee and are participating in an effort to convince Congress and America of the importance of

science. We have participated in CRA meetings and continue to correspond with their leadership. Dan Reed, RENCI Director, a CASC member, serves as the CRA President.

CASC also participates in the Presidents Council of the Council on Competitiveness. The Presidents Council brings together the leaders of more than 40 think tanks, policy organizations and trade associations that are active in promoting various aspects of the National Innovation Initiative policy agenda. Chaired by Deborah Wince-Smith, President of the Council on Competitiveness, the Presidents Council identifies opportunities for collaboration across the spectrum of innovation issues. There are no dues for this membership.

Proposed Membership:

ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America, is a unique collaboration of interested organizations and individuals representing the physical and mathematical sciences and engineering. Founded in 2001, ASTRA is dedicated to promoting better understanding of the physical & mathematical sciences and engineering. Annual dues are \$5,000 per year.

Members of ASTRA include leading industries, professional societies and associations, universities, and individual scientists and researchers. ASTRA members conduct policy research to educate the public about the linkages between scientific R&D funding and innovation, our standard of living, national security, and economic growth.

ASTRA provides a means for academia, associations and scientists to collaborate more closely with industry on issues of mutual concern. They meet monthly and all members are invited to attend. Given the current political tumult around funding for scientific research, partnering with ASTRA in addition to the Council on Competitiveness, CNSF and the ESC will give CASC members a louder voice on the national stage. ASTRA's goals are complementary to those of CASC, and will support our increasing visibility on the Washington political scene. I would therefore propose that CASC become a member of ASTRA.