

Washington Insider

- In 1998, the National Science Foundation will conduct a competition to fund new Science and Technology Centers (STCs). Since 1987, the NSF has established 25 research centers, including one in psychology, presently the only STC focusing on a social science. The competition will be open to all sciences and will potentially establish eight centers for scientific research from a pool of \$25 million. Centers can be funded for a maximum of 10 years. For application information, contact Dr. Fernanda Ferreira of NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate. Dr. Ferreira can be reached at (701) 306-1731 or <fferreir@nsf.gov>.
- The National Science Foundation is revising its process for reviewing grant proposals. NSF will ask reviewers to consider these two broad questions in evaluating grant proposals: 1) What is the intellectual merit and quality of the proposed activity, and 2) What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity? Under the two broad questions and a longer list sub-questions, reviewers will focus more of their evaluation on how proposals seek to serve society. Pending final approval, these new guidelines could be implemented as early as the fall of 1997.
- "Valuable resources are wasted every time an important policy decision is made without regard to the science and technology research that could be tapped to inform that decision." So state the heads of the National Academies of Science and Engineering and the Institute of Medicine. These organizations have jointly published *Preparing for the 21st Century*, a series of six papers on the relationship between social science research and public policy. These papers be accessed on the web at <<http://www2.nas.edu/21st>>.
- The United States Information Agency (USIA) announced that the Institute for International Education (IIE), headquartered in New York City, has assumed administrative responsibility for the Fulbright Senior Scholars Program, formerly administered by the American Council of Learned Societies. Each year, the Fulbright Senior Scholars Program sends approximately 800 American academics to more than 125 countries.
- President Clinton has called for a 3.4% increase in National Science foundation funding for the fiscal year 1998, raising NSF's budget to \$2.5 billion. Under Clinton's proposal, the budget for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate of NSF would increase to \$129.7 million, up 6.5% from FY 1997. Representative Vern Ehlers (R-MI), vice-chair of the House Science Committee and head of the Committee's two-year study of science and technology policy, commented that the President's NSF budget represents "a realistic proposal from which we on the science committee can work." Support for the Clinton proposal is also evident in Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), chair of the Science Committee.

gressional Fellows from Germany, the German Marshal Fund, in conjunction with the Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange, supports Congressional Fellows from France.

APSA Congressional Fellow Rises in Army's Ranks

APSA Congressional Fellow Michael Gayle has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the United States Army. Gayle's promotion ceremony took place in February in the office of Representative J.C. Watts (R-OK) where he is currently serving as a Congressional Fellow. Major General Peter Franklin, USA, officiated at the ceremony, and Pam Pryor, deputy staff director for Congressman Watts, offered congratulations on behalf of the congressman.

A 1980 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Gayle has spent over 15 years in management positions in the army. In order to participate in the Congressional Fellowship Program, Gayle is on leave from his position in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development, and Acquisition where he works on the aviation acquisitions staff.

Gayle is one of three army officers who are 1996-97 APSA Congressional Fellows.

APSA Hosts East Europeans through International Civics Project

In an effort to extend civics education projects in former communist bloc countries, APSA is hosting delegations of scholars and teachers at its national headquarters. Funded by the US Department of Education and coordinated by the Center for Civics Education, the American Federation of Teachers and several American colleges and universities are conducting study tours for groups of political scientists from Russia, Latvia, Poland, Bosnia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. The program seeks to enable a mutual exchange of ideas about civics edu-