

Presentation to the National Science Board August 15, 2017

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Charge to the Committee

1. Do the SBE sciences advance the NSF mission areas of **national health, prosperity, and welfare**; securing the **national defense**; and **promoting the progress of science**?
2. Do the SBE sciences advance the **missions of other federal agencies**?
3. Do the SBE sciences advance the **work of business and industry**?
4. What are **priorities for NSF investment** in the SBE sciences, and what are **important considerations** for the NSF for future strategic planning?



Committee on the Value of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences to National Priorities

ALAN I. LESHNER (Chair), American Association for the Advancement of Science

JOHN S. CARROLL, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

IVY ESTABROOKE, Utah Science, Technology and Research Agency, Salt Lake City, Utah

RALPH GARRUTO, Department of Anthropology, State University of New York, Binghamton

KATHLEEN MULLAN HARRIS, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

RON HASKINS, Center on Children and Families, The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

EDWARD H. KAPLAN, Yale School of Management, Yale University

RONALD D. LEE, Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

ROBERT MOFFITT, Department of Economics, Johns Hopkins University

DUNCAN WATTS, Microsoft Corporation, New York, New York

YANNIS C. YORTSOS, Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California

Response to the question: Why Support Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Research?

- Virtually every major challenge the United States faces requires understanding the causes and consequences of people's behavior.
- Even those that at first glance appear to be issues only of medicine or engineering or computer science have SBE components.
- Like all sciences, the social sciences bring a rigorous, methodical approach to pursuing knowledge.

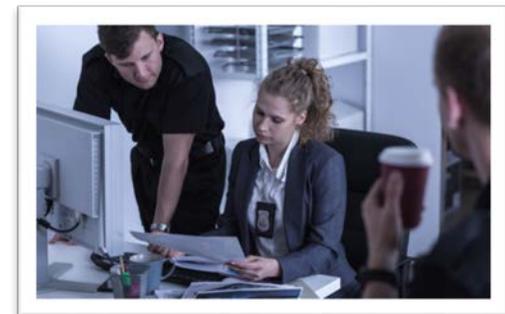
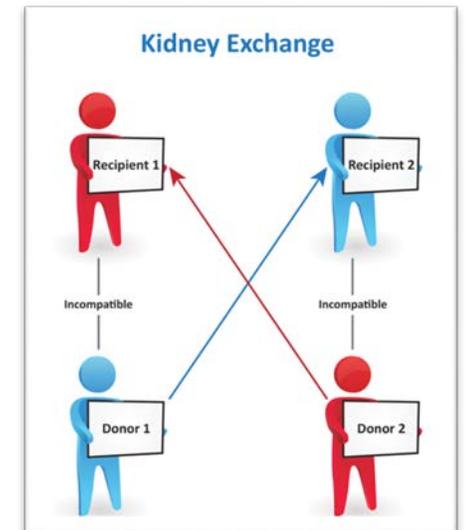


The Committee Reached Three Conclusions.

Conclusion 1

Overall, the **social, behavioral, and economic sciences** produce a better understanding of the human aspects of the natural world, contributing knowledge, methods, and tools that **further the mission of NSF.**

- Health
- Prosperity and welfare
- National defense
- Progress of science



Conclusion 2

The understanding, tools, and methods provided by the **social, behavioral, and economic** provide an essential foundation that **helps other agencies achieve their missions.**

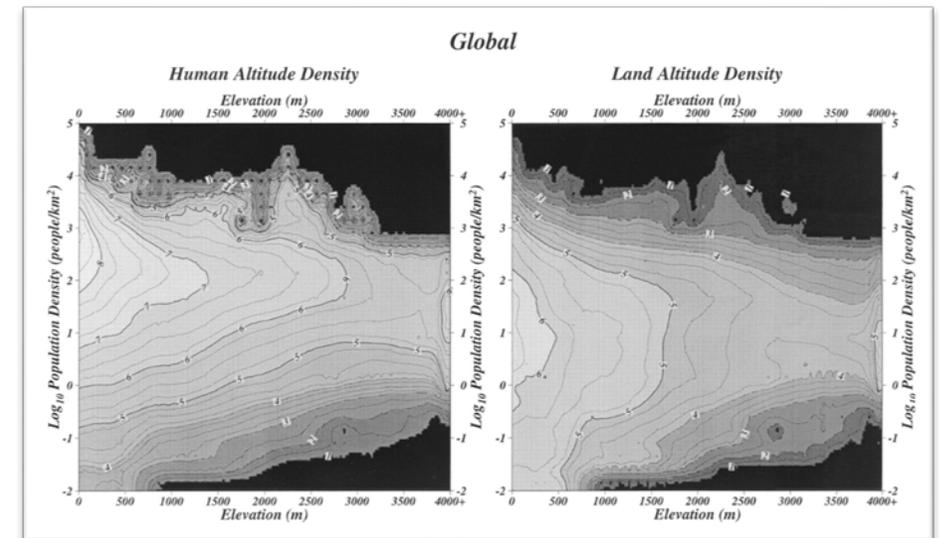
- Auctioning off radio frequencies (FCC)
- Containing Ebola (CDC)
- Improving national security, intelligence and counterterrorism (DoD and other agencies)



Conclusion 3

The **social, behavioral, and economic sciences** have provided advances in understanding and tools and methods that have been **applicable to business and industry** and that **enhanced the U.S. economy**.

- Development of internet search engines
- Using the altitudes of the world population to inform product development and marketing



Preparing for the Future: Priorities and Elements NSF Should Consider in its Strategic Planning

1. Undertake a systematic and transparent strategic planning process
2. Attend to current trends in science
3. Support training consistent with ways science is evolving across all scientific fields (e.g., interdisciplinary, data intensive, and team-oriented)
4. Strengthen communication of SBE research

Report-Related Actions to Date (since June, 2017)

1. Multiple briefings by the NASEM Committee Chair or members (for NSF, Congressional Committees, SBE disciplinary associations)
2. Report highlighted in House of Representatives by Representative Daniel Lipinski
3. Public discussion of the report at the National Academies, 7/19/17
 - a) Increased awareness and raised salience of the report to a wide audience (researchers, other federal agencies, Congressional staff)
 - b) Reinforced and expanded findings of the report
 - c) Will inform next steps for NSF/SBE strategic planning



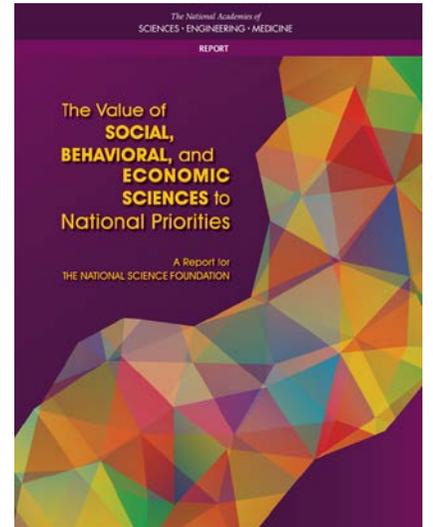
Alan Leshner



Marcia McNutt

Next Steps to Address NAS Recommendations for Strategic Planning

1. Examine other agencies' strategic planning process
2. Define the goals of SBE's strategic plan
3. Identify the plan's audience(s)
4. Solicit input from NSF leadership and staff, the SBE and other research communities, the SBE Advisory Committee, the National Academies, and other relevant stakeholders including industry, foundations, etc.
5. . . . and today, the National Science Board!



Thank you!