

NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE HUMANITIES

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY urges Congress to provide at least \$170M for the National Endowments for the Humanities (NEH) in FY21

Robust humanities education is critical to cultivating a broadly-educated workforce ready to compete in the knowledge-based, global 21st Century economy. From the basic building blocks of early education, to the highest levels of academic attainment, humanities fields provide individuals from all disciplines, including science, technology, engineering, & mathematics (STEM), with skills, competencies and the expertise needed by the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Stony Brook University (SBU) remains concerned about the long-term erosion of funding for NEH competitive grant awards for nonprofit institutions and scholars. NEH competitive grants are known for their quality and ability to leverage non-federal funding. NEH grants are at one of the **lowest** funding rates in NEH's nearly 50 year history. This includes grants in the following divisions: • Research; • Education; • Preservation and Access; • Challenge Grants; • Public Programs; and • Digital Humanities.

A relatively small investment in NEH yields high returns. NEH awards seed money for high-quality projects that leverage millions of dollars in non-federal support every year. Since 1977, the NEH has leveraged over \$3 billion in non-federal matching funds from challenge grants alone. This multiplier effect comes from the requirement that recipients of challenge grants match every federal dollar with three non-federal dollars.

Analysts in the major national intelligence and security agencies are, to a great extent, humanists and social scientists. The Minerva Project is an important example of the link between the humanities and national security. It is a university-based social sciences and humanities research initiative launched by the Department of Defense to improve our armed services' understanding of the social, cultural, behavioral, and political forces that shape regions of the world of strategic importance to the U.S.

The humanities remain central to the missions of U.S. colleges and universities and the cultural life of the nation. As the only federal agency that funds the entire range of academic fields in the humanities, the NEH is a vital source of funds for humanities research and education, supporting summer seminars and institutes for K-12 teachers and faculty, pre-service training for aspiring teachers, collaboration between institutions of higher education and local school districts, and more.

For the cost of less than 50 cents per American, NEH grants support the humanities nationwide—including history, English, and civics—which are fundamental to learning and essential for full participation in a modern democracy.