



**Written Public Testimony for the Record
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Fiscal Year (FY) 2021
March 6, 2020**

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I, Suzanne T. Ortega, President of CGS, respectfully submit this written testimony for the record regarding FY 2021 appropriations. For FY 2021, we request the subcommittee provide at least \$170 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).*

The Council of Graduate Schools is the only national organization solely dedicated to advancing graduate education and research. CGS's core membership is comprised of its institutional members, universities and colleges significantly engaged in graduate education, research, and scholarship. In total, CGS represents nearly 500 institutions in the United States and Canada, and approximately 30 additional institutions in other countries. Collectively, our members confer roughly 87% of all U.S. doctorates and the majority of U.S. master's degrees.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is a critical source of support for numerous activities that advance humanities research, promote scholarship and lifelong learning, preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources, and strengthening humanities education in schools and universities. Since it was first established in 1965, NEH has awarded over \$5.6 billion to support humanities projects via more than 64,000 grants.¹ The mission of NEH is integral to our members, as CGS was one of the leading organizations directly involved in the inception and establishment of the agency nearly six decades ago.

We also know that graduate education in the humanities yields both short and long term returns on investment. CGS's PhD Career Pathways initiative, which examines career trajectories of alumni from a subset of CGS member institutions, reveals that humanities PhD education is of high value for individuals who work within academia and for those who work outside of it. According to CGS data, the large majority of respondents report that their doctoral education prepared them "extremely well" or "very well" for their current job (surveyed individuals include those who were three, eight, and 15 years post-graduation).² The large majority also reported they would pursue a PhD in general or in the same field, if they had to start over again.

* Aligns with the National Humanities Alliance's FY 2021 request for NEH.

¹ National Endowment for the Humanities. (n.d.) Retrieved from: <https://www.neh.gov/grants>.

² Council of Graduate Schools. (2018). Closing gaps in our knowledge of PhD career pathways: How well did a humanities PhD prepare them? CGS research in brief. Retrieved from: <https://cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Career%20Pathways%20Research%20Brief%2010-18-2018.pdf>.

Moreover, the National Science Foundation found that 92 percent of humanities PhDs working in 2015 held jobs that are related to their PhD.³ Clearly, investments in humanities education, including that stemming from NEH, lead to successful career opportunities for those at the graduate level, and those individuals are making contributions to communities both inside and outside of academia.

With respect to higher education, including that delivered at the graduate levels, NEH grant programs support the pipeline of humanities scholars and faculty, strengthen institutional infrastructure, advance humanities research, and increase the diversity of faculty and humanities projects. Below are some NEH programs that bolster these facets of humanities education and research:

The NEH Fellowship program provides eligible individuals up to \$60,000 to support their research endeavors or to produce materials and resources for public dissemination that stem from previous research.

NEH's Scholarly Editions and Scholarly Translations program offers eligible entities, including certain academic institutions, to receive funding awards that support the preparations of editions and translations of pre-existing texts of value to the humanities that are currently inaccessible or available only in inadequate editions or translations. These are valuable resources for teaching humanities at the postsecondary level.

The Collaborative Research program supports partnerships between two or more scholars from certain institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, state and local governments, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments to embark on projects that “propose diverse approaches to topics, incorporate multiple points of view, and explore new avenues of inquiry in the humanities.” The grants promote collaboration and interdisciplinary work, which are valuable assets in today’s ever-expanding workforce.

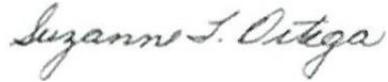
Other NEH awards, such as the *Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities* and *Awards for Tribal Colleges and Universities* seek to strengthen humanities at these institutions by “encouraging and expanding humanities research opportunities for individual faculty and staff members.” Supported projects include those that lead to the development of books, peer-reviewed articles, institutional or community archival collections, and improvements in existing undergraduate humanities courses.

In addition to their own inherent worth, the humanities are embedded across virtually all disciplines. The humanities help us think analytically about the interconnectedness of our society, employ critical writing and reading skills, allow us to bridge meaning across cultures, and weigh ethical considerations. These skills can be applied to a number of non-humanities disciplines, including the STEM fields.

³ National Science Foundation. (n.d.). National Survey of College Graduates. Retrieved from: <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads/>.

Again, we respectfully urge the subcommittee to provide at least \$170 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities in FY 2021. If you have any questions, or if CGS can be of assistance, please contact CGS's Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, at Linouye@cgs.nche.edu. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne T. Ortega".

Suzanne T. Ortega
President