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NAGC Applauds Awarding of Restored Javits Funding

Awards Will Fund 10 Innovative Programs Focused on Enhancing Services for High-Ability & High Potential Students

WASHINGTON (September 25, 2014) – Following a three-year draught, the Department of Education has awarded 10 [Jacob Javits Gifted & Talented Education program](#) grants to support innovative applied research projects focused on identifying and serving high-ability and high-potential students from communities traditionally underrepresented in gifted education programs.

The grants are the first Javits funds distributed since 2011, the same year Congress eliminated funding for the program, and are the first new awards since 2009. Earlier this year, Congress – due largely to the leadership of [Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski](#) – restored \$5 million to the program, the money that is now funding these new awards.

The [National Association for Gifted Children](#) has been a leading advocate for restoring the Javits funding and increasing federal investment in developing best practices in developing high levels of talent in the coming years.

“After years with no awards, NAGC is very pleased to see Javits grants being awarded to so many innovative and deserving programs focused on better supporting high-ability students from underrepresented and disadvantaged populations,” said NAGC Executive Director Nancy Green.

The funded projects include those focused on twice-exceptional students, English Language Learners, and students from a wide array of underrepresented populations and settings including rural, urban and Indian Reservations. Institutions receiving awards include the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the University of Connecticut, the University of Virginia, Purdue University, George Mason University and the College of Charleston.

“The Javits program has a long record of success despite its history of modest funding. Applied research projects funded by Javits have helped transform how we identify and instruct high-ability students and have influenced the education of students in the general classroom who are not identified as gifted. NAGC is confident this most recent batch of awardees will add to the Javits legacy,” Green said.

Earlier this year, the [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) recommended upping the Javits program to \$7 million in Fiscal Year 2015. Congress will likely finalize FY 15 funding levels following the November elections.

“We urge Congress to build upon the restoration of the Javits funding in by including at least \$7 million for the program in FY 2015 so we can continue supporting such critical applied research to reverse the longstanding neglect of our nation’s high-ability and high-potential students,” Green said.