



Urban Serving Universities Support Creating an Energy Research Network

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Washington, D.C. – Investing in energy research is essential to America’s long-term economic security and prosperity. Establishing a network of regional energy research centers will generate innovation and future technology.

The Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), a nationwide organization of 39 public urban research universities, strongly supports the Brookings Institution’s Blueprint for American Prosperity project and the recommendations released today in “Energy Discovery-Innovation Centers: A Step Toward Energy Sustainability.”

Several prominent leaders of the USU Coalition have been working for months to help formulate these new policy concepts, including Michael Crow, President of Arizona State University, and Gordon Gee, President of The Ohio State University.

Nancy Zimpher, President of USU, stated that “America’s public urban research universities are leaders in energy research and stand ready to play an active role in establishing these centers.” In 2006, public urban research universities received \$12.2 billion in federal energy research grants and contracts, including \$211 million from the Office of Science at the Department of Energy.

USU’s work in energy research has generated a number of new projects and local initiatives throughout the country:

- In Ohio, the University of Cincinnati has established an Emerging Energy Systems Initiative and is conducting research on fuel cells, clean coal technology, and hydrogen production and storage.
- North Carolina State University in Raleigh is working on an “Internet for energy” that can accommodate both the changing demands of new electric-powered cars and the increasing sources of alternative energy.
- The University of Louisville has created a Kentucky Center for Renewable Energy with private, state, and federal support to study all types of energy sources, storage, and distribution.
- Florida International University in Miami is researching hydrogen production, energy collaboration among the Americas, fuel cells, combustion dynamics, and efficiency in thermal and flow systems.
- The University of Minnesota is working on several aspects of biomass energy production, along with battery technology and wind power.
- The University of Houston founded a strategic energy alliance of more than 20 institutes and centers to advance fossil fuels, promote energy conservation and environmental sustainability, drive renewable and alternative energy, and lead systems integration.

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University presidents created the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (www.usucoalition.org) in 2005 to focus the intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities on improving both urban life and American competitiveness. USU works in three general areas – creating a competitive workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a diverse population.

Arizona State University ◦ California State University, Dominguez Hills ◦ California State University, East Bay ◦ California State University, Fresno
California State University, Fullerton ◦ California State University, Long Beach ◦ California State University, Los Angeles ◦ California State
University, Northridge ◦ California State Polytechnic University, Pomona ◦ Sacramento State University ◦ California State University, San Bernardino
San Diego State University ◦ San Francisco State University ◦ San José State University ◦ City University of New York, City College of New York
Florida International University ◦ Georgia State University ◦ Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis ◦ Morgan State University
North Carolina State University ◦ Ohio State University ◦ Portland State University ◦ Temple University ◦ Tennessee State University
University of Akron ◦ University of Alabama at Birmingham ◦ University of Central Florida ◦ University of Cincinnati ◦ University of Colorado,
Denver ◦ University of Houston ◦ University of Illinois at Chicago ◦ University of Louisville ◦ University of Memphis ◦ University of Minnesota
University of Missouri, Kansas City ◦ University of New Mexico ◦ University of New Orleans ◦ Virginia Commonwealth University ◦ Wichita State University