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LNP | LancasterOnline

State association representing Elizabethtown, F&M petitions against cuts to federal research funds



ASHLEY STALNECKER | Staff Writer Mar 11, 2025



This is an aerial view from the College Avenue side of the Franklin & Marshall College campus Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020.

BLAINE SHAHAN | Staff Photographer

Elizabethtown and Franklin & Marshall colleges have the backing of a statewide association as President Donald Trump looks to make cuts to national research funding.

The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, which represents 85 institutions of higher learning including Elizabethtown and F&M, wrote a letter to Congress citing the importance of research funding from the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation to many of its member institutions.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the [National Science Foundation](#) awarded \$617,000 in grants to F&M and \$360,000 in grants to Elizabethtown College. F&M also received \$808,073 from the [National Institutes of Health](#) in 2024.

Trump's current proposal would cut funding to the National Science Foundation by 66% from its current budget of \$9 billion to \$3 billion and by \$4 billion to the National Institutes of Health. Cuts were delayed temporarily by a court challenge, but universities nationwide are making plans in case the loss in [funding takes effect](#).

READ: [NIH budget cuts would mean problems for Lancaster-area public health research](#)

Thomas Foley, president of the association, argued in a letter to Congress this week that the funding attracts more college graduates, grows jobs in Pennsylvania and is a major economic driver.


“Multiple sources warn that these proposed cuts are a ‘self-inflicted wound’ that ‘would kill American science and boost China,’” Foley wrote in the letter. “This issue transcends party politics because academic research benefits all Americans.”

Republican U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker, whose district covers both Elizabethtown and F&M colleges, was among the representatives contacted by Foley.

Smucker did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday but did previously tell LNP | LancasterOnline that while he is an advocate for increased funding to the National Institutes of Health, taxpayer dollars must be spent efficiently.

[AICUP Letter to Congress Regarding Proposed Cuts to NIH NSF March 2025](#) by [Ashley Stalneck](#) on Scribd

[SCRIBD]



Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania
www.AICUP.org

March 10, 2025

Dear Representative,

Thank you for your service to our state and our country.

I'm writing today about a topic that affects Pennsylvania's colleges and universities, Pennsylvania's economy, and the health of Pennsylvania's citizens. I write on behalf of the 85 member institutions of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), for whom I have the honor to serve as President.

Current NIH and NSF proposals would

1) Cut funding to the National Science Foundation (NSF) by 66%, from its current budget of \$9B down to \$3B, and

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