

# In This Issue #150

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## Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and TAPABA on Opposition to Casey Arrowood Nomination



**1. California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (AAPILC).** On September 26, 2022, AAPILC sent two letters to Senators **Diane Feinstein** and **Alex Padilla** respectively, joining "a broad coalition of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in respectfully opposing Mr. Arrowood's nomination based on his previous xenophobic and harmful attack against a loyal Asian American."

"Mr. Arrowood's prosecution was based on a discriminatory initiative that judged a person on their race and national origin and not their actions. Mr. Arrowood's xenophobic and unjust prosecution feeds into harmful anti-Asian American stereotypes that incited a rise in hate incidents and violence against our community. The most recent report from Stop AAPI Hate highlighted that at least 11,500 hate incidents were reported between March 19, 2020 and March 31, 2022. Mr. Arrowood's actions in support of the 'China Initiative' perpetuate a racist stereotype that Asian Americans are forever foreigners and are not Americans," the letters said.

AAPILC represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse API communities throughout California. It seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government. Dr. **Richard Pan**, Senator for the 6th Senate District, chairs AAPILC.

Read more about the AAPILC letters to [US Senator Feinstein](#) and [US Senator Padilla](#).

**2. Tennessee Asian Pacific American Bar Association (TAPABA).** On October 6, 2022, *Knox News* published an opinion by TAPABA. According to the opinion, "[i]t is highly important that the Office of the U.S. Attorney acts fairly and impartially in exercising its

prosecutorial function. Although TAPABA is aware that attorneys from this office have wide prosecutorial discretion in making charging decisions and sentencing recommendations in criminal cases, targeting a particular group for investigation and prosecution based on race, national origin or other protected classes is unconstitutional. Even the mere appearance of doing so instills great suspicion, fear and hardship in those groups. This in turn has a chilling effect on the full and vibrant contribution of members of diverse communities in Tennessee. That is against the interests of Tennessee and is unacceptable.

"Consequently, TAPABA asks that the Senate Judiciary Committee carefully review and consider Mr. Arrowood's qualifications and his role in the prosecution of members of the API community under the China Initiative, including the FBI investigation, prosecution, and acquittal of Anming Hu. A proper explanation of what he did, why and how he intends to uphold equal protection under the law if confirmed is necessary to give the API community reasonable confidence that the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Tennessee will perform its functions in a manner that is equitable and devoid of racial or national origin biases."

TAPABA's core mission is to represent and advocate for the interests of the Asian and Pacific Islander legal community. This includes the fair and impartial administration of justice for members of the API community within Tennessee.


Read more about TAPABA's opinion: <https://bit.ly/3T1ra9f>

Read more about the continuing development to oppose the Arrowood nomination: <https://bit.ly/3R6bP5w>

## OSTP and AASF Webinars; BIS Announcement; NASEM Reports

### 1. Office of Science and Technology Policy Community Briefing

**OSTP Research Security Community Update**

Date & Time	Oct 14, 2022 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)	
Webinar ID	<input type="text"/>	
Passcode	<input type="text"/>	

On Friday, October 14, from 1:30-2:30pm ET, there will be a virtual community briefing with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Federal agency leaders, and fellow members of the U.S. research community on progress related to the implementation of National Security

Presidential Memorandum (NSPM)-33 on research security.

Register for this webinar at: <https://bit.ly/3RW9E4Q>

## 2. Asian American Scholar Forum Webinar



**AASF**  
Asian American  
Scholar Forum

**WEBINAR**  
**The Chilling Effect & Fears of  
Chinese-American Scientists and  
the Implications to the US Science  
and Technology: A National Study**

**Save the Date:**  
**Monday, October 17, 2022**  
**3:00 pm ET**

**Register: [bit.ly/AASFOct17](https://bit.ly/AASFOct17)**

  
**Keynote Speaker**  
**Judy Chu**  
Congresswoman (CA-27)  
Chair, Congressional Asian  
Pacific American Caucus

More prominent speakers to  
be announced

On October 17, 2022, the Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF) will host a webinar titled "The Chilling Effect & Fears of Chinese-American Scientists and the Implications to the US Science and Technology: A National Study." Rep. **Judy Chu**, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, is the keynote speaker.

Register for the AASF webinar: <http://bit.ly/AASFOct17>

## 3. Bureau of Industry and Security Announcement



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 7, 2022  
[www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov)

**BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY**  
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs  
[OCPA@bis.doc.gov](mailto:OCPA@bis.doc.gov)

**Commerce Implements New Export Controls on Advanced Computing and Semiconductor Manufacturing Items to the People's Republic of China (PRC)**

On October 7, 2022, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) under the Department of Commerce announced the implementation of a series of targeted updates to its export controls as part of BIS's ongoing efforts to protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests. These updates will restrict the People's Republic of China's (PRC's) ability to both purchase and manufacture certain high-end chips used in military applications and build on prior policies, company-specific actions, and less public regulatory, legal, and enforcement actions taken by BIS.

The export controls announced in the two rules restrict the PRC's ability to obtain advanced computing chips, develop and maintain supercomputers, and manufacture advanced semiconductors.

Among other prohibitions, the new rule restricts the ability of U.S. persons to support the development, or production, of integrated circuits at certain PRC-located semiconductor fabrication "facilities" without a license.

Read more about the BIS announcement: <https://bit.ly/3rRMBNT>

#### 4. National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Report



On September 29, 2022, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a report titled Protecting U.S. Technological Advantage, recommending a range of actions the federal government should take to maintain the United States' global leadership in science and technology. **The government should shift from its historical emphasis on protecting specific technologies from access by competitor nations to a risk-management approach that protects the United States' own capacity to innovate, the report says.**

“Because the landscape of technology and competition is changing, protecting specific technologies themselves is certainly insufficient, often ineffective, and sometimes counterproductive,” said **Susan Gordon**, former principal deputy director of national intelligence in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and co-chair of the committee that wrote the report. “Protecting and strengthening the nation’s ability to innovate in order to respond to military and commercial challenges is at least equally — and perhaps vitally more — important.”

To that end, the U.S. should strive to maximize the amount of work that can be appropriately performed in an open research environment — an approach that will promote U.S. leadership in science and engineering, attract top talent, and enhance discoveries that lead to new technologies, the report says, urging the president to issue an executive order to that effect.

Read more about the NASEM Report: <https://bit.ly/3MsGskl>

## Decline in US University Rankings and High School Test Scores

The image shows a screenshot of a Wall Street Journal (WSJ) article. The WSJ logo is at the top. Below it, the text 'U.S. | EDUCATION' is visible. The main headline reads 'China's Universities Rise in World Rankings as American Schools Continue to Falter'. A sub-headline states: 'Fewer U.S. universities rank in the top 100, while China's schools produce more high-quality research than ever'. To the right of the article text is a graphic of a yellow pencil pointing to a grid of 14 rows and 5 columns of circles, each containing a letter from A to E. Below the grid are four input fields labeled 'DEPT', 'COURSE', 'ID', and 'SCORE'.

**1. Wall Street Journal.** On October 12, 2022, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the U.S.’s pre-eminence among the world’s top research universities continues to diminish, according to a new global ranking, while Chinese universities are on the rise, producing a greater quantity and higher quality of research than ever before.

The U.S. and U.K. continue to dominate the upper echelon of the [World University Rankings, released by Times Higher Education](#), with the U.S. taking seven of the top 10 slots and Britain three. Oxford is followed by Harvard University, University of Cambridge, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, California Institute of Technology, Princeton University, University of California, Berkeley, Yale University and Imperial College London.

The highest-ranked universities in the world not located in the U.K. or the U.S. are ETH Zurich, at No. 11, Tsinghua University, China (16), Peking University, China (17), University of Toronto (18), National University of Singapore (19), Technical University Munich (30) and University of Hong Kong (31).

But among the top 100 universities, the number of those in the U.S. fell to 34 from 43 between 2018 and this year. The number of Chinese universities in the top 100 increased from two to

seven.

The number of Chinese scholarly publications has been growing steadily since the mid-1990s, but as recently as this year it was widely believed in the Western academic community that the quality of Chinese scholarship still lagged behind Western nations. Then [a paper](#) published this spring in the journal [Scientometrics](#), which studies the quantitative features and characteristics of science and scientific research, found that China has overtaken the U.S. as the world leader in scientific research output of “high impact” studies.

Not only was China producing more research than the U.S. and Europe overall but a higher percentage of that research was among the top 1% of papers most cited globally.

China’s research was concentrated in materials science, chemistry, engineering and mathematics, while U.S. researchers were more prolific in research into clinical medicine, basic life sciences and physics.

In August President Biden authorized tens of billions of dollars to support federal research and development and regional technology startups when he signed the Chips and Science Act, which aims to spur construction of factories that produce microchips. The administration is pushing for more advances in fields such as commercial computing and artificial intelligence.

China spent \$526 billion on research and development in 2019, according to data from the National Science Foundation. It was still lagging behind the U.S., where R&D expenditure totaled \$656 billion, but China has been closing the gap, increasing its spending by an average of 10.6% annually from 2010 to 2019.

Read more about the *Wall Street Journal* report: <https://on.wsj.com/3yBo5nZ>

**2. ACT and SAT Scores Fall.** According to *Inside Higher Ed* on October 13, 2022, the national average composite score on the ACT for the high school Class of 2022 was 19.8, the lowest average score in more than three decades. It is the first time since 1991 that the average composite score was below 20. The maximum score on the ACT is 36. This is the fifth consecutive year of declines in average scores.

The SAT also saw scores fall this year. The 2022 average score was 1050, compared to 1060 for the Class of 2021.

This year, 1,349,644 students took the ACT, up from 1,295,349 last year and down from 1,670,497 in 2020.

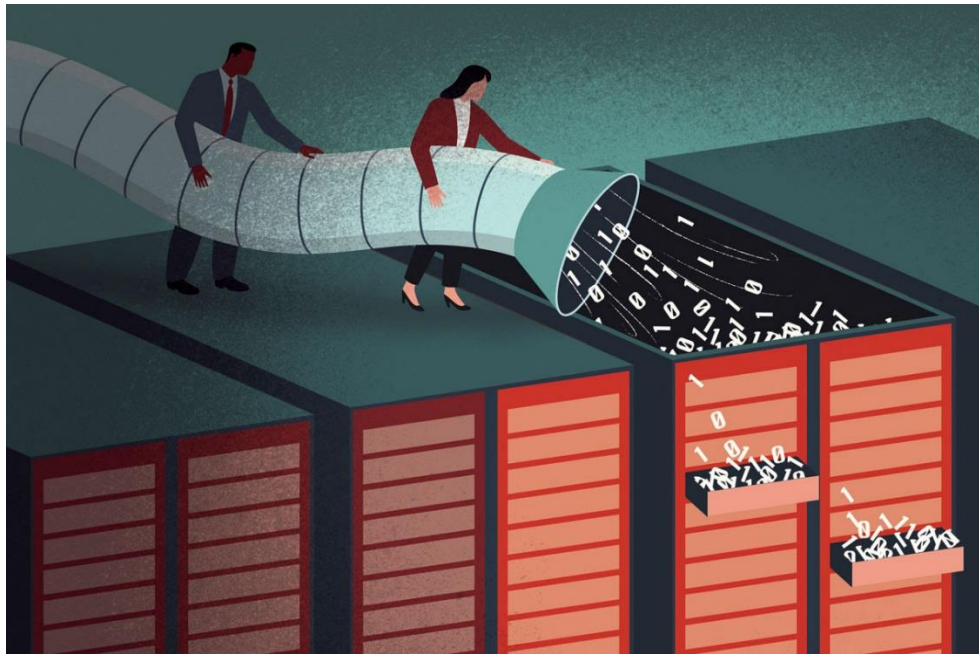
More students also took the SAT this year, 1,737,678, compared to 1,509,133 last year. In 2020, 2,198,460 students took the SAT.

The ACT breaks down scores by race and whether the student has completed the core courses in high school that ACT recommends for college preparation.

“At some level, these annual reports are increasingly meaningless because 80 percent of schools no longer require ACT/SAT scores, and about half of applicants don’t submit them,” said Robert Schaeffer, public education director of FairTest: the National Center for Fair and Open Testing.

Read more about the *Inside Higher Ed* report: <https://bit.ly/3RXxNb8>

## NSF Turns to Big Data to Check if Grantees Have Foreign Ties



According to a report by *Science* on September 30, 2022, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will soon begin crunching several large databases to see whether there are scientists who failed to disclose ties to foreign institutions in their grant applications. It is arguably the boldest of several steps federal research agencies are taking to comply with the CHIPS and Science Act that aims to boost U.S. technological innovation—and prevent China and other foreign governments from pilfering federally funded research.

At NSF, officials have decided to turn to big data to help safeguard the agency’s \$7 billion research portfolio. The agency already reviews the biosketches that accompany each grant proposal and provide basic information about each applicant and key members of their team, including institutional affiliations, collaborations, areas of research, and geographic location. Going forward, NSF will compare what applicants have disclosed with information contained in two commercial databases of scientific publications—the Web of Science and Scopus—as well as U.S. patent applications.

NSF says its goal is to spot potential red flags, including omissions or inconsistencies that could violate its policies. Of particular concern would be an NSF grantee who has listed participation in a foreign talent recruitment program in a published paper—but not disclosed that tie to NSF.

“Very often the researcher will acknowledge one of these talent plans in their paper because it’s a requirement in their contract to do so,” says **Rebecca Keiser**, head of NSF’s office of research security. “So now we’ll be able to find that through data analytics.”

NSF will take a closer look at any discrepancies it finds, Keiser says, and then reach out to the researcher’s institution for more information. (To this point, NSF program staff has referred individual cases to the agency’s independent inspector general, who then decides whether to investigate.) “We will ask an institution to work with us to understand whatever it is we have found,” she says.

University administrators first got wind of NSF’s plans in November 2021 when the agency put out a public notice of its intention to create a new “system of records.” But NSF has yet to spell out exactly what information it will collect and how it will manage those data.

That has prompted some anxiety among academic researchers. The Council on Governmental Relations (COGR), which tracks the impact of federal regulations on academic research for its 200-plus member institutions, has expressed concern about who would have access to the data files and how NSF would validate their accuracy. “We’re still waiting to learn the rules of the road that apply to this new system of records,” says COGR’s Kristin West.

Read more about the *Science* report: <https://bit.ly/3VeR3Uj>

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