

ON THE HILL



**RESEARCH, EDUCATION
BIG WINNERS IN
FUNDING PACKAGE**

*(Photo: Rep. David
Kustoff (R-TN08) with
Interim Vice Chancellor
Nathan Green)*

ON THE HILL

ON THE HILL is a biannual report produced by the Division of Public Affairs summarizing year-to-date activity at all three levels of government, as outlined by representatives from our Offices of Federal Relations, State Government Relations, and Local Government Relations.

WHO IS PUBLIC AFFAIRS?

The Division of Public Affairs serves as the institution-wide hub for public policy and community initiatives by developing unique relationships with and communicating to Vanderbilt's vast array of external and internal constituencies. We are an advocate, we facilitate, and we help fund community organizations that align with Vanderbilt's mission.

WHY DO WE EXIST?

We exist to have a seat at the table; inform and activate the Vanderbilt community to engage policy officials; educate officials on Vanderbilt initiatives; and assure the maintenance of good relationships at the local, state, and federal level.



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RESEARCH, EDUCATION BIG WINNERS IN FUNDING PACKAGE



(Photo: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) with Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos)

The Office of Federal Relations (OFR) continues to play an integral and valued role in shaping federal public policy and successfully advocating for the university's federal priorities with lawmakers.

SAVING THE UNIVERSITY TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Congress enacted the first comprehensive tax reform legislation since the mid-1980's in December 2017.

Between the Senate and House bills, Vanderbilt faced the elimination of virtually all tax benefits for students (including the employee dependent tuition benefit); draconian new taxes on certain net investment income (VU cost est. \$7M/year) and trademark and licensing royalties (VU cost est. \$25M/year); and significant changes to how Unrelated Business Income Taxes are calculated.

Ultimately, the final tax bill did not include any of the student provisions or the trademark and licensing royalties provision, and modified the net investment income tax provision. That latter modification occurred thanks to the direct engagement by Sen. Alexander (R-TN) at the request of OFR. Thanks to concerted and strategic advocacy coordinated and led by OFR, under

the leadership of Chancellor Zeppos and involving engagement by Board of Trust members, the university averted most of the draconian tax changes, although the new tax law still fundamentally alters the relationship between the federal government and tax-exempt organizations.

SECURING HISTORIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FUNDING

In March 2018, Congress passed a sweeping, bipartisan FY 18 omnibus spending bill that included historic increases in research and education funding.

OFR consistently and vocally advocated throughout the year for the university's funding priorities, including through formal written communications; meetings with campus officials and congressional offices; letters and statements from coalitions to which we belong; and focused social media efforts.

Considering the Administration's budget request proposed draconian cuts to virtually all of our priorities, the end result for FY 18 funding is all the more remarkable and testament to the sustained advocacy by Vanderbilt and the broader higher education and research communities. Highlights of the omnibus increases are reflected in the table on the next page.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ON THE HILL AND INCREASING VISIBILITY

At its core, effective advocacy is built on solid relationships with key congressional offices and our advocacy partners.

As but one example, Sen. Alexander cited Vanderbilt engineering research in his remarks at the Dept. of Energy ARPA-E Innovation Summit, attended by thousands of ARPA-E-funded researchers. Sen. Alexander is the leading congressional champion for ARPA-E, and citing our research provided tremendous visibility for Vanderbilt.

OFR is an active and leading participant in a wide variety of associations and coalitions that align with our advocacy priorities. Notably, OFR has played a strategic role in bringing together colleges and universities across the state to advocate for DACA recipients, resulting in the first-ever statewide letter to our Senators in support of a long-term solution to the DACA program.

With the addition of a dedicated communications coordinator, OFR has redoubled our outreach efforts. Over the past year, OFR hosted key appropriations staff for Sen. Alexander on campus, as well as Tennessee-based staff from the offices of Sens. Alexander and Corker (R-TN) and Rep. Cooper at several high profile campus events.

2018 ELECTIONS-FEDERAL

RACES

1 Senate Seat
9 House Seats (3 Open)

AGENCY/INITIATIVE	FY 18 (% CHANGE FROM FY 17)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	\$37.1 billion (+8.8%)
National Science Foundation (NSF)	\$7.8 billion (+4%)
DOE Office of Science	\$6.3 billion (+16%)
ARPA-E	\$353 million (+15.4%)
DOD Basic Research (6.1)	\$2.3 billion (+2.6%)
Institute of Education Sciences (IES)	\$613.5 million (+1.4%)
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	\$152.3 million (+1.6%)
Pell Grant Award (max award)	\$6,095 (+3%)
Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)	\$840 million (+14.6%)
Federal Work-Study	\$1.1 billion (+14%)



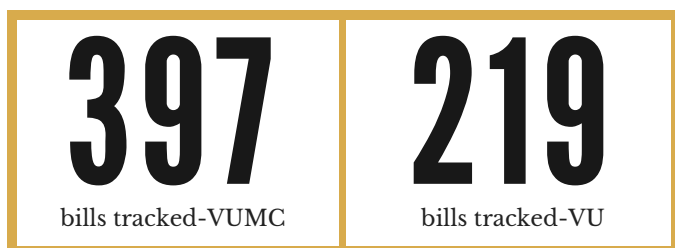
(Photo: From left to right: Dean Daniel Pack, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga; Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN05); Dean Philippe Fauchet, Vanderbilt University)

(Photo: Members of the TN General Assembly presenting resolution honoring the late VU alum Perry Wallace)



STRONG LOBBYING EFFORT SAVES STUDENT AID

As the 110th General Assembly conducted its session, State Government Relations (SGR) represented both the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's and Vanderbilt University's priorities while tracking legislation with potential impacts to each institution.



The university faced additional regulatory burdens and a reduction in student aid funds by the proposed Complete College Tennessee Act (SB2259/HB2114). SGR worked in tandem with the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association to successfully lobby against the passage of the bill, resulting in the university's retention of over \$330,000 in student aid and avoidance of additional administrative hardships.

SGR's efforts also ensured the Medical Center's continued successful administration of care by defeating and/or modifying several unfavorable bills impacting physician certifications; opioid prescriptions; the creation of a new class of health care providers; restrictions on provider billing practices; and new disclosure requirements for vaccine ingredients.

The SGR team also led the legislative effort to recognize the leadership of Vanderbilt alum Perry Wallace with the passage of a joint resolution honoring his historic contribution to civil rights.

Upon the completion of session in May, SGR's focus has turned to raising community awareness of and encouraging voter participation in the numerous state races on this year's ballot through the non-partisan initiative Project Register.

2018 ELECTIONS-STATE

RACES

Governor
State House of Representatives
State Senate
*Speaker of the House
*Majority Leader
*Caucus Chair
*Committee Chairs, Members

OPEN SEATS

Governor
3 Senate Seats
25 House Seats

*Not on ballot - elected/appointed internally

NASHVILLE TRANSIT INITIATIVE TAKES CENTER STAGE



(Photo: Members of the Vanderbilt community at the final forum on Nashville's transit plan hosted by our Office of Community, Neighborhood, and Government Relations)

As a part of the Division of Public Affairs, the Office of Community, Neighborhood, and Government Relations (CNGR) works daily with Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County and oversees a broad range of issues and regulations impacting Vanderbilt.

CNGR's work behind the scenes forges relationships with policy makers, both elected and appointed, and creates the foundation for Vanderbilt's enduring impact on the community. CNGR coordinated with Metro Government to get Ofo dockless bikes to host their pilot program at Vanderbilt; approval of a sky plane variance for Residential College A; and approval by Metro Codes for reduced residential halls' square footage which ensures the continued development of Residential Colleges A, B, and C.

CNGR also provided opportunities for the Vanderbilt community to become better informed citizens. The CNGR team hosted four transit forums that gave the Vanderbilt community an opportunity to learn more about the transit referendum through the eyes of experts on both sides of the issue.

Members of the team hosted a Metro Council retreat at

Vanderbilt; co-chaired the Hillsboro Village Central Business District feasibility committee; and partnered with Hillsboro-West End Neighborhood to raise funds for the renovation of Fannie Mae Dees Park dragon.

ISSUES IMPACTED



Dockless/shared bikes, general mobility around town

Neighborhood partnerships



Traffic and parking

Zoning changes for
FutureVU

FUTUREVU >>>
A vision for the future of Vanderbilt's campus

2018

FALL VOTING SCHEDULE

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Registration Deadline for
November 6 General

OCT. 9

Register at
<https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/>

Early Voting Period
for November 6 General

**OCT. 17-
NOV. 1**

Federal and State General
Election Date

**TUESDAY,
NOV. 6**



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Vanderbilt supports the nonpartisan initiative - Project Register - created by Congressman Jim Cooper (D-TN05) and State Senator Steve Dickerson (R-Nashville) to increase voter registration in Middle Tennessee.