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The Science Coalition Honors Representative Jim Cooper for Commitment to Maintaining America's Leadership in Basic Research

Washington, D.C., December 3, 2013 – The Science Coalition presented Congressman Jim Cooper with its Champion of Science Award in recognition of his strong commitment to funding the basic scientific research that keeps the United States and the state of Tennessee at the forefront of scientific discovery and technological innovation. The award was presented yesterday at The Science Coalition's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

"The recognition of Congressman Cooper's commitment to science is long overdue," said Science Coalition President Tim Leshan. "Congressman Cooper is passionate about science and is keenly aware of its importance to society and the economy. He has made it one of his priorities to share this passion and encourage his congressional colleagues to appreciate the value scientific research no matter how seemingly obscure it might seem to the layperson."

In 2012, based on an idea first proposed by Congressman Cooper, the [Golden Goose Award](#) launched as a way to illustrate the value of federally funded basic research. The award highlights the often unexpected or serendipitous nature of basic scientific research by honoring federally funded researchers whose work may not have seemed to have significant practical applications at the time it was conducted but has resulted in tremendous societal and economic benefit.

Congressman Cooper has further demonstrated his belief that federally funded basic scientific research is the cornerstone of American innovation and essential to our economic growth, health, global competitiveness, and national security consistently by consistently supporting strong funding for key federal research agencies including the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Department of Energy.

"I'm honored to be recognized as a champion of science," said Cooper. "From cancer treatments to environmental breakthroughs, scientific research sparks the American imagination and makes miracles happen."

The Science Coalition's Champion of Science Award recognizes members of Congress whose actions and votes consistently reflect their belief that basic scientific research, conducted at universities and national labs across the country, is essential to the nation's ability to address pressing issues in health, security, energy and the environment, and additionally, that a strong federally supported basic research enterprise drives innovation that fuels the U.S. economy. Congressman Cooper joins a distinguished group of more than 60 current and former members of Congress who have received this award since 1999.

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The Science Coalition, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization of the nation's leading public and private research universities, is dedicated to sustaining strong federal funding of basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America's global competitiveness. Learn more at www.sciencecoalition.org.