



**For Immediate Release
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**The Science Coalition Honors Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) for
Commitment to Maintaining America's Leadership in Basic Research**

The Science Coalition today gave Senator Lamar Alexander its "Champion of Science" award in recognition of his strong and continued advocacy for basic research funding. "Senator Alexander knows first-hand the role basic research plays in driving our economy and keeping America competitive in the global marketplace," said John Edward Sexton, President of New York University. "Senator Alexander understands that spending for scientific research is not an expense, but rather an investment in America's future," Sexton added. A dozen representatives from Science Coalition universities accompanied Sexton at the event on Capitol Hill.

Senator Alexander, Chairman of the Republican Conference, has demonstrated his support for science and higher education throughout a long and distinguished career, including service as Governor of Tennessee, as the U.S. Secretary of Education, the president of the University of Tennessee, and as a professor at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Senator Alexander helped lead the effort that resulted in passage of the America COMPETES Act last year, supporting science funding and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to keep America competitive. This year, Senator Alexander has helped push for critically necessary emergency funding to keep key science programs running, including at the country's national laboratories and the U.S. commitment to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Project.

The Science Coalition works to expand and strengthen the federal government's investment in university-based scientific, medical, engineering and agricultural research. Sustained support for research across the entire range of scientific disciplines is the most important step the nation can take to maintain America's position at the forefront of scientific discovery, technological innovation, and economic growth in the 21st century.

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***The Science Coalition, a non-profit organization representing 45 of the nation's leading public and private research universities. The Science Coalition is dedicated to sustaining the federal government's commitment to U.S. leadership in basic science. For more information visit:
www.sciencecoalition.org***