President Signs Executive Order on Artificial Intelligence

CISE Announcements <CISE-ANNOUNCE@LISTSERV.NSF.GOV>

on behalf of

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Dear Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Community,

We are pleased to let you know that, earlier today, the President signed an Executive Order (EO), [*Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*](https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/accelerating-americas-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence/), establishing the American AI Initiative and directing the Federal Government “to prioritize research and development of America’s artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.”  NSF Director Dr. France A. Córdova joined Dr. Lynne Parker (formerly NSF/CISE Division Director for Information and Intelligent Systems and now the Assistant Director for AI at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy) and other government research and development leaders for the [signing in the Oval Office](https://www.flickr.com/photos/whitehouse/32123469237/).

The American AI Initiative will enable sustained investment and innovation in AI, enhance access to resources including data and advanced computing for AI research, and train a next-generation AI research workforce.  Dr. Córdova issued the following [statement](https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=297658&org=NSF&from=news) upon the EO signing:

*“NSF has a long and rich history of supporting transformative research in AI and machine learning, and is an essential contributor to growing the workforce needed to advance AI research and development. We look forward to supporting the AI Initiative, which will be critically important to maintaining American leadership in technology and innovation.*

*“Advances in AI are crucial for the U.S. science and engineering enterprise, and nearly all sectors of our 21st-century economy. Many of the transformative uses of AI that we are witnessing today are founded in federal government investments in fundamental AI research that reach back over decades. Building the foundations of tomorrow's AI innovations will require new interdisciplinary collaborations, resources, and strategic vision -- principles that NSF has championed in its support of fundamental AI research. I could not be more pleased to see them articulated as part of the American AI Initiative.*

*“The AI innovations that NSF has funded have helped the U.S. capitalize on the full potential of this critical research area, and we are eager to join this initiative to strengthen our economy, advance job growth, and better our society.”*

Today’s EO follows the [FY 2020 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities memo](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/M-18-22.pdf), the 2018 [National Defense Strategy](https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf), and the December 2017 [National Security Strategy](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf), all of which have highlighted that “continued leadership in AI, quantum information science (QIS), and strategic computing is critically important to our national security and economic competitiveness.”

Coupled with the [National Quantum Initiative Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/6227) that was passed by the previous Congress and signed into law in December 2018, as well as on-going efforts around AI in the current Congress, it is clear both the Executive and Legislative Branches of our Federal Government are showing great interest in the advances being pursued by the CISE research and education community.

As we’ve previously noted and as our community well knows, it is an incredibly exciting time to be in computing and information science.  We look forward to working with the broad CISE community as we realize the vision espoused by today’s AI EO.

Best,

Jim and Erwin

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