2011 Coalition for National Science Funding Exhibition

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) held its 17th Annual Exhibition and Reception on May 11, 2011, in the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of the annual exhibition is to educate members of Congress, congressional staff and federal employees about the breadth and significance of scientific research supported by the National Science Foundation. The 2011 Exhibition included more than 30 displays featuring posters, computer demonstrations, videos, and educational materials about NSF-supported research and education projects.

Dr. Charles Holt of the University of Virginia represented the AEA at the 2011 Exhibition. His exhibit entitled “A Virtual Laboratory for Research and Teaching on Social Economic Interactions” was based on an NSF infrastructure grant that supported a team of 10 economists, political scientists, and an anthropologist for 5 years. The project developed “Veconlab,” a virtual laboratory that allows about ten thousand students from around the world each month to log in remotely and participate in experiments. Students are put into strategic scenarios where their decisions help them understand the more abstract theoretical concepts that are presented in their textbooks. Veconlab has over 50 experiments available, running the gamut from basic supply and demand equilibration to ultimatum games and double auctions, encouraging students’ active engagement with economic ideas through experiments.