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The Science Coalition Honors Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) for Commitment to Maintaining America's Leadership in Scientific Research

Washington, D.C., Nov. 18, 2013 – The Science Coalition today presented Congresswoman Nita Lowey with its Champion of Science Award in recognition of her strong commitment to funding the basic research that keeps the United States and the state of New York at the forefront of scientific and medical discovery and technological innovation. The award was presented jointly by officials from three Science Coalition universities, Columbia, NYU, and Pace, at an event at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Congresswoman Lowey representing New York in Congress. She has long understood the direct connection between funding university-based research and the innovation economy," said New York University President John Sexton. "We are hopeful her leadership on the Budget Conference will mitigate the devastating effects that sequestration is having on health and science research."

"America's great research universities are engines of innovation that not only drive our economy, but help solve society's most urgent problems, from climate change to infectious disease," said Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger. "We're delighted to see Nita Lowey recognized for being a leading voice in Congress for investment in the basic and applied science research that is essential to our national strength and quality of life."

"I would like to thank Congresswoman Lowey for her leadership and ongoing support in Congress, in particular in the area of higher education research funding, she is a true Champion of Science," said Pace University President Stephen J. Friedman. "Without her voice it would be a challenge for Pace students, who represent the great middle class of American education and the aspiring heart of America, to assume leadership roles that are essential to creating jobs, stimulating the economy and keeping America competitive."

"Those of us who work at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory are proud to be represented in Washington by Congresswoman Nita Lowey, who has been an effective spokesperson for the importance of federal investment in science," said Observatory Director Dr. Sean Solomon. "We particularly appreciate Representative Lowey's sustained advocacy in the areas of environmental conservation and energy management at a time of profound global change."

Congresswoman Lowey has a long legislative history of supporting issues related to global health and biomedical research, consistently advocating for robust federal support for targeted research initiatives. As a longtime member of the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, she has fought for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health, helping double NIH funding in the 1990s and early 2000s. In addition, Congresswoman Lowey has been a leader in the fight against breast cancer, authoring the

Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act in 2008. The bill established an Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (IBCERCC), which works to guide federal research investigating the links between breast cancer and the environment. She has also consistently advocated for STEM education initiatives to build a technologically and scientifically advanced future workforce and enhance America's ability to compete globally.

"I am honored to receive this award from some of New York's and our country's fiercest advocates for science and most talented researchers. Scientific research not only saves lives, it is essential to the United States remaining a global leader in innovation and technology," said Congresswoman Lowey. "It's simple: federal investments in science are investments in cures, breakthroughs, and jobs. That's why I strongly support federal investments in science and, as a member of the bipartisan Senate-House budget conference, will continue to push for an agreement that ends the automatic spending cuts, which are killing research jobs and threatening to set back breakthroughs for years to come."

"As Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Lowey has made federal investments in basic scientific research a priority throughout her career," said Science Coalition President Tim Leshan of Northeastern University. "Not only has she been a steadfast supporter of biomedical research, but she has consistently supported investments across the spectrum of scientific and engineering research."

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. Congresswoman Lowey 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.