

# ABOUT NSF



- Created by Congress in 1950 as an independent federal agency to promote American science and engineering (S&E)
- Funds basic research and education across all fields of S&E and at all levels of S&E education—the only federal agency to do so
- Seeks high-risk, potentially transformative projects that will generate path-breaking discoveries and new technologies
- Funds advanced instrumentation and facilities
- Supports Arctic and Antarctic research, science operations, and other related activities for the U.S. polar research program
- Supports cooperative research between universities and industry and U.S. participation in international scientific efforts
- Allocates 90 percent of research funding through a merit review process as grants or cooperative agreements to individual researchers and groups at colleges, universities, academic consortia, nonprofit institutions, and small business
- Supported 196 Nobel laureates, including 22 in the last 5 years

Dr. Subra Suresh, Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

