

National Science Board

November 4, 2005

Dear Colleague:

The National Science Board (NSB, the Board) invites your comments on the draft document, *National Science Board 2020 Vision for the National Science Foundation* (NSB-05-142), <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/documents/2005/nsb05142/nsb05142.pdf>.

During Senate budget hearings in February 2005, Congress requested that the Board, in its role as policy making and oversight body for the National Science Foundation (NSF), prepare a report on the future of NSF.

Given the constrained funding environment, it is even more critical that the National Science Board develop a long term vision for NSF. In other words, we need a strategy that outlines how we can get the biggest bang for our buck through programs and activities supported by NSF ... This means articulating a vision for the future of science and technology, including the next bold cutting-edge areas of research.
(Chairman Kit Bond, Senate VA, HUD Appropriations Hearing, February 17, 2005)

The draft provides a concise vision statement for NSF and includes strategic priorities, investment principles, near-term goals, and enabling strategies for achieving the vision.

Three years ago, in an environment of increasing budgets and congressional authorization for a doubling of the NSF budget, the Board responded to a similar congressional request and described how NSF should invest an expected doubling of the NSF budget. That document, *Fulfilling the Promise: A Report to Congress on the Budgetary and Programmatic Expansion of the National Science Foundation* (NSB-03-151), is also available on the NSB Web site <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/documents/2003/nsb03151/coverlink.pdf>.

The Board recognizes the importance of its "2020 Vision for NSF" document in setting the course of research and science education in our Nation. Your comments on this draft vision document will help the Board meet its legislative mandates to advise Congress on science and engineering research and education policy issues, and to establish policies and provide oversight for NSF.

Comments should be addressed to NSBExecOfficer@nsf.gov by November 18, 2005.

Sincerely,



Warren M. Washington
Chairman