



National Science Foundation
Office of the Director

May 8, 2023

Dear STEM Teachers:

During this Teacher Appreciation Week, the National Science Foundation (NSF) wishes to recognize you and say *Thank You* for the great work you do every day. Teacher Appreciation Week is a special time at NSF, as it reflects on the lifelong impact teachers make in the lives of diverse students across the Nation, in schools and school districts, and in the communities in which they teach.

Our Nation depends on you each day to prepare the next generation STEM-ready leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, teachers, politicians, and engaged citizenry for the 21st century. Hence, NSF is committed to supporting STEM teacher education efforts through its many K-12 investments. Current research and development programs generate insights and tools that support the training, skills, and resources to help STEM teachers succeed in the classroom. NSF is honored to foster support for these efforts through programs, such as the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12), Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), and Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST). NSF will continue to recognize outstanding STEM teachers in the Nation's classrooms, provide rewards for their accomplishments, elevate the public profile, and create rewarding career paths to which all STEM teachers can aspire, both to prepare future STEM researchers and scientists and to create a scientifically literate public.

NSF is keenly aware of the many challenges teachers face, in and out of the classroom. Such challenges have never been greater, but you still recognize that every child deserves a great teacher and uphold through your daily interactions that they have found that person in you. Remember that the work you do makes a difference. During this Teacher Appreciation Week, my NSF colleagues and I applaud you for your courage, determination, dedication, commitment, and selflessness as you to continue devote your life to helping the Nation's students succeed and grow.

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week and thanks for shaping the minds of the next generation of STEM researchers and scientists!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sethuraman Panchanathan'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director