**FAST FACTS**

- **$45,032,000** Total NSF awards to Alaska in FY18
- **$40,702,000** Amount invested in fundamental research in Alaska in FY18
- **$4,330,000** Amount invested in STEM education in Alaska in FY18
- **$305,000** Amount invested in Alaskan startups through NSF’s small business program in FY18
- **$5,040,000** Amount dedicated to stimulating competitive research in Alaska through NSF EPSCoR

**TOP 3 NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR FY18**

- **$35,744,000** University of Alaska Fairbanks
- **$4,280,000** Carnegie Mellon University
- **$873,000** University of Alaska Southeast Juneau

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**NSF & ALASKA**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the National Science Foundation made $45,032,000 in awards to Alaska in support of fundamental research, advanced technical education, entrepreneurial training, STEM teacher training, long-term ecological monitoring, small business development, major research instrumentation and more.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**DISCOVERY** | New evidence has revealed a previously unknown population of ancient Native Americans. An NSF-funded team led by archaeologists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks analyzed ancient-DNA from the cremated remains of one of two already discovered ice age infants from the Upward Sun River site in the North American arctic. The infant girl, named “sunrise girl-child” by the local Alaska Native community, died shortly after birth more than 11,000 years ago. She and the younger infant were closely related, likely first cousins. This ancient DNA data provides an unprecedented window into the history of her people. The genetic testing suggests that the group, which the team named “Ancient Beringian,” remained in the far north for thousands of years, while the ancestors of other Native American peoples spread south through the rest of North America. This new information gives researchers a more accurate picture of Native American prehistory. It also offers Alaska Native people new scientific knowledge about their heritage, including evidence that all Native Americans are descended from a single founding population.

**STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** | NSF made a $5.6 million, five-year grant to establish a Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site along the northern Alaskan coast that will focus on the interactions between land and ocean that shape coastal ecosystems in the Arctic over different time scales. Researchers at the Beaufort Sea Lagoons LTER site will study food webs, which support large-scale coastal fisheries and more than 150 species of migratory birds and waterfowl. Long-term changes along the northern Alaska coast have already affected the types of fish and other creatures that live in the lagoons and are expected to continue to do so. The LTER research team will collaborate with members of local communities, including the Iñupiat, and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS** | Accurate knowledge of sea ice thickness over large scales is crucial for understanding the current and future states of the Arctic ice cover, and for near- and long-term predictions of Arctic marine environments. An NSF Major Research Instrumentation award to the University of Alaska Fairbanks will develop an Airborne electromagnetic snow radar system capable of being integrated into long-range unmanned aerial systems. This system will allow the acquisition of basin-scale ice thickness and snow depth data as part of a network for Arctic observations that address information needs of researchers, local communities and industry.

**SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (S&E) INDICATORS** | 4.65 percent of the Alaska workforce is employed in S&E occupations, and 8.31 percent of Alaska’s business establishments are industries with high employment in science, engineering and technology occupations.*

**COMPETITIVE RESEARCH** | NSF made $41,284,000 in awards to Alaskan academic institutions.