In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the National Science Foundation made $28,979,000 in awards to Arkansas 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 |** NSF-funded researchers from the University of Arkansas discovered a site in southwestern Arkansas the size of two football fields that contains dinosaur tracks from a number of species, some of which have not been previously identified in Arkansas. The existence of the footprints tells researchers that the surface was exposed to the elements at one time. Data collected from this site and others will aid researchers in reconstructing the regional paleoclimate during the Early Cretaceous period, including the frequency of rain and the amount of evaporation that affected the area 120 million years ago. Such information may be useful in making predictions about the Earth’s future climate.

**STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT |** The University of Arkansas received an award from NSF’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program to create the “Path to Graduation” (PTG) program that aims to close the STEM labor gap by recruiting previously overlooked populations and increasing the number of low-income students, especially those from rural regions. PTG will adapt proven student retention and graduation initiatives to better address the financial, academic and social barriers to success so that STEM students can thrive and succeed in their studies. Not only will the program increase both the size and diversity of Arkansas’ STEM labor pool, but it has the potential to create best practices for recruiting and retaining low-income STEM students, especially those from rural areas.

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS |** The University of Arkansas received an NSF Major Research Instrumentation award providing a high-resolution, X-ray micro-computed tomography (microCT) scanner that will enable cutting-edge research in the U.S. Interior Highlands, including northwest Arkansas. Acquisition of this advanced Nikon imaging system will allow 3D, non-destructive study of biological and geological specimens, historical artifacts and engineering materials that will permit researchers to document the internal structures of a wide range of natural and engineered materials and examine these structures in 3D down to the micro (μ 0.1 mm) and nanoscales (< 0.001 mm). Documenting the microstructural organization of materials at these levels is critical for determining their function. This ability to peer inside the microstructure of materials applies to a wide range of disciplines including mechanical engineering, biology, anthropology, anatomy, paleontology, geology, neuroscience, chemistry and biochemistry, human health, biomedical engineering and beyond.

**SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (S&E) INDICATORS |** 2.97 percent of the Arkansas workforce is employed in S&E occupations, and 7.69 percent of Arkansas’s business establishments are industries with high employment in science, engineering and technology occupations.

**COMPETITIVE RESEARCH |** NSF made $19,825,000 in awards to Arkansas’ academic institutions through the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), which promotes scientific progress in states that have traditionally received lesser amounts of NSF research and development funding.

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FAST FACTS

- $28,979,000: Total NSF awards to Arkansas in FY18
- $26,414,000: Amount invested in fundamental research in Arkansas in FY18
- $2,565,000: Amount invested in STEM education in Arkansas in FY18
- $767,000: Amount invested in Arkansas startups through NSF’s small business program in FY18
- $12,014,000: Amount dedicated to stimulating competitive research in Arkansas through NSF EPSCoR

TOP 3 NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR FY18

- $15,884,000: University of Arkansas
- $1,198,000: Hendrix College
- $880,000: University of Arkansas Little Rock

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