NSF & FLORIDA

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the National Science Foundation made $205,645,000 in awards to Florida 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?

IMPACT  |  Florida International University is home to the Wall of Wind facility, the largest and most powerful university storm research facility. The facility’s twelve-fan system can replicate winds associated with Category 5 hurricanes, generating wind speeds up to 157 mph. A rain generation system allows for wind-driven rain simulations. Wall of Wind testing has led to changes in the Florida building code provisions geared toward decreasing the vulnerability of roofs and rooftop equipment during hurricanes.

STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  |  With a $2,836,563, six-year grant that began in 2016, Florida State University is expanding the number of undergraduate and graduate students in its CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service program in cybersecurity. Students that complete the program will have an immediate impact on the information assurance and forensics capabilities of the federal workforce. Florida State has received the DHS/NSA designation as the National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense. The CyberCorps® program provides scholarships for up to three years of support for cybersecurity undergraduate and graduate education. In return, recipients agree to work after graduation for the U.S. government, in a position related to cybersecurity.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS  |  In FY 2018, NSF made $4,625,600 in awards in support of graduate students through its flagship Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which supports students pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees in STEM disciplines.

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (S&E) INDICATORS  |  3.49 percent of the Florida workforce is employed in S&E occupations, and 9.49 percent of Florida’s business establishments are industries with high employment in science, engineering and technology occupations.

FACILITY  |  NSF funding supports the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab), the largest and highest-powered magnet laboratory in the world and the only facility of its kind in the United States. The facility, with sites near Florida State University in Tallahassee and the University of Florida in Gainesville, provides access to a range of powerful instruments, including a magnet that can repeatedly produce a magnetic field of 100 Tesla -- 2 million times stronger than the Earth’s. The magnet is the only one of its kind that can produce fields of that strength without exploding. Each year, more than 1,800 scientists from around the globe use the MagLab facilities. In FY 2018, NSF renewed support for the MagLab and will invest $184 million over the next five years.