NSF & IDAHO

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, the National Science Foundation made $30,765,000 in awards to Idaho 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 | Investigators at Idaho State University, under a cooperative agreement with NSF, established the Reynolds Creek Critical Zone Observatory (RC CZO) to address the grand challenge of improving prediction of soil carbon storage and the processes governing its fate at the plot to the landscape scale. The RC CZO is co-located with the Reynolds Creek Experimental Watershed (RCEW) in southwest Idaho, administered by the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) for over 50 years. An interdisciplinary team of scientists from Idaho State University, Boise State University, and the USDA-ARS will focus their efforts on extensive characterization of above and below ground plant biomass and soil carbon amounts and characteristics across the watershed. This CZO will produce one of the largest coupled soil carbon-environmental variable datasets available, and will become a community resource for carbon cycling research and education, and a magnet for global soil modeling community research to address the grand challenge of understanding soil carbon behavior.

STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | In FY 2019 Boise State University received a $1,075,000 award from NSF’s Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, a program designed to assist universities and colleges in diversifying the STEM workforce through the development of highly competitive students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines. Boise State University is one of the 10 institutions included in the Pacific Northwest LSAMP with the goal to recruit 12 LSAMP students through to graduation with a STEM doctoral degree.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS | The University of Idaho received a $4,105,283 award to add four new cohorts of undergraduate and graduate students to their existing CyberCorps(R) Scholarship for Service (SFS) program in cybersecurity with strong background in cyber defense; forensics and situational awareness; secure and resilient architectures, networks, and systems; and security of embedded, industrial, and power control systems and devices. The program is graduating skilled information assurance and forensics professionals with strong leadership skills and a commitment to public service. The students will serve as summer interns to gain practical experience and will join federal agencies or other eligible entities upon graduation.

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING INDICATORS | 4.28% of the Idahoan workforce is employed in S&E occupations, and 7.22% of Idahoan business establishments are industries with high employment in science, engineering and technology (SET) occupations.++

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH | NSF made $13,900,000 in awards to Idaho’s academic institutions through its 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.