WEST VIRGINIA FACT SHEET

FY 2020 FAST FACTS

$17,222,000
Total NSF awards to West Virginia

$9,328,000
Invested in fundamental research in West Virginia

$7,894,000
Invested in STEM education in West Virginia

$225,000
Invested in West Virginia startups through NSF’s small business program

TOP NSF-FUNDED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR FY 2020

$13,066,000
West Virginia University

$991,000
Marshall University

$752,000
Fairmont State University

NSF BY THE NUMBERS

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an $8.5 billion independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense. NSF’s vital role is to support basic research and researchers who create knowledge that transforms the future.
NSF-FUNDED RESEARCH FIGHTING COVID-19

Congress provided NSF with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 in the CARES Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. For more information on NSF's COVID research, visit NSF's award database and COVID funding reports.

COVID-19 RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT | Researchers at West Virginia University are working to develop naturally sourced filters for use in medical masks. These filters would be removable, renewable and reusable. The novel filters enhance the effectiveness of masks beyond current capabilities through the incorporation of small-sized antimicrobial/antiviral copper particles. This work was funded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic but has the potential to impact the safety of health care workers against a slew of pathogens.

STEM EDUCATION

STEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | NSF's Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program addresses the need for a high-quality STEM workforce in STEM disciplines supported by the program and for the increased success of low-income, academically talented students with a demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate or graduate degrees in STEM. With $648,409 in funding from the NSF S-STEM program in Fiscal Year 2019, the project will support eligible students at University of Charleston. The program is funded by H-1B visa fees, so is not subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

RESEARCH DRIVING WORKFORCE INNOVATION

FUTURE OF WORK | NSF’s Green Bank Observatory, in Green Bank, West Virginia, is home to the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope, the world’s largest fully steerable radio telescope. The observatory offers access to telescopes, facilities and advanced instrumentation for the global scientific community as well as offering many educational opportunities for students and the community on site. These resources have enabled countless discoveries about bodies within our solar system and far beyond and even provided essential communication with NASA’s Mars 2020 Perseverance rover during its landing. The observatory anchors and administers the National Radio Quiet Zone, where radio transmissions are limited by law. Having telescopes within this zone enables detection of faint radio astronomical signals that would otherwise be overwhelmed by anthropogenic radio transmissions, leading to discoveries across the universe.

EPSCoR

- COMPETITIVE RESEARCH | West Virginia is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under NSF’s Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Over $4,220,000 in awards have been made to West Virginia academic institutions through EPSCoR in FY 2020. For more information, visit West Virginia's EPSCoR state web page.

NCSES

- According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), 31% of Science, Engineering, and Health doctorates conferred in West Virginia are made in Life sciences. Visit West Virginia’s science and engineering state profile to learn more!
- 3.24% of West Virginia’s workforce are employed in S&E occupations.
- 6.80% of West Virginia’s industries with high science, engineering, and technology occupations.

LEARN MORE

- NSF70 – In 2020, NSF commemorated its 70th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of the publication of Science - the Endless Frontier. Watch the highlight video for NSF’s seven decades of funding the best and brightest ideas that have transformed our lives and established the U.S. as a science and technology leader.
- NSF FACT SHEETS – NSF provides fact sheets about the agency and its bold investments in basic research. These fact sheets profile NSF investments in research across all fields of science and engineering, including quantum, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing, and the NSF-supported research and computing infrastructure powering the U.S. response to COVID-19.
- CONNECT WITH NSF – For more information on NSF’s impact in your state, please contact NSF’s Office of Legislative and Public Affairs at congressionalteam@nsf.gov.