

A monthly message from NSF's director.



A Message from the Director

As 2015 comes to a close, I'd like to reflect on what NSF has accomplished over the past 12 months. As the only federal science agency charged with advancing all fields of scientific discovery, technological innovation, and STEM education, NSF touches many lives. Through various programs this year, the Foundation supported more than 300,000 scientists, engineers, educators and students at universities, laboratories and field sites across the U.S. and throughout the world.

These dedicated individuals strengthen the U.S. research endeavor by pushing the frontiers of knowledge. As citizens, we all benefit from their curiosity and creativity. Their work fuels the economy. In June, for instance, at BIO International in Philadelphia, nearly 40 startups and small businesses supported by NSF showcased their products. This year we also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Engineering Research Centers. Located in 28 states, these innovation centers have generated 193 spinoff companies, and 739 patents, and trained thousands of future scientists and engineers.



With 2016 ready to unfold before us, look for NSF to continue its important work to secure the nation's position as a leader in science and engineering. Happy Holidays!

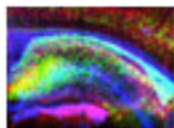
Dr. France A. Córdova
Director, National Science Foundation
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Where Discoveries Begin...



[Broader impacts, improving society](#)

Every NSF grant has the potential to not only advance knowledge but impact society. Effective research enriches the world, creating new ways to extend learning and solve problems.



[Understanding the brain](#)

NSF's BRAIN Initiative supports research and infrastructure designed to transform our view of who we are and how we relate to and interact with each other and our ever-changing environment.



[Beyond today's Internet, experiencing a smart future](#)

NSF played a pivotal role in launching the Internet. Over the years, its support of novel hardware and software, and new networking approaches, has enhanced the Internet's speed, security and accessibility. The agency's commitment continues to advance this critical societal resource.

What's Next?

[NSF Day: Pasadena City College](#) – 1/22/16

Learn how to compete for and secure NSF funding for science, engineering and education research.

[Generation Nano: Small Science Superheroes](#) – Submissions deadline - 2/2/16

See the creative superhero competition from NSF and the National Nanotechnology Initiative.

[American Astronomical Society annual meeting](#), Kissimee, FL – 1/4/16-1/8/16

Dr. Córdoba will deliver a plenary talk on Jan. 5, 2016, titled "A New Universe of Discovery."

Did you know...

[R&D in the U.S. by the numbers](#)

Research and development (R&D) performed in the U.S. in 2013 totaled \$456.1 billion.

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