

## THE NSF STATUTORY MISSION

To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense; and for other purposes.



## THE NSF VISION

Enabling the Nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation.

NSF investments – in people, in their ideas, and in the tools they use – will catalyze the progress in science and engineering needed to establish world leadership and secure the Nation's security, prosperity, and well-being.

*On the cover:* This image is a representation of a "Beehive Pool" fractal, a region in the complicated geometric object introduced by mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot in the 1970's to study certain equations. Fractals are self-similar structures containing patterns within patterns. Fractal-like structures can be found in nature, in clouds, shorelines, and other seemingly random phenomena. NSF is one of the major supporters of mathematical sciences. NSF's strong role in supporting mathematics is a crucial one as mathematics provides the backbone for advances in other technical, engineering and health-related areas as well as a broad basis for industrial and technological development. (Image courtesy of Frances Griffin. For more information visit [www.nsf.gov/news/mmg/mmg\\_disp.cfm?med\\_id=51856&from=search\\_list](http://www.nsf.gov/news/mmg/mmg_disp.cfm?med_id=51856&from=search_list).)