
THE NSF STATUTORY MISSION

**To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health,
prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense**

—From the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (P.L. 81-507)



THE NSF VISION

**Advancing discovery, innovation, and education beyond the frontiers of current
knowledge and empowering future generations in science and engineering**

—From the National Science Foundation Strategic Plan FY 2006–2011

About the cover:

Gemini South image of NGC 5426-27 (Arp 271) as imaged by the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph. The twin galaxies comprising NGC 5426-27 (Arp 271) are not as peaceful as they look. Separated by only 60,000 light years, they are on a collision course and will end up as a single elliptical galaxy. For more information about NGC 5426-72 (Arp 271) see: <http://www.gemini.edu/node/10979>. (Image courtesy of Gemini Observatory.)

NSF is the federal steward for ground-based astronomy in the United States. Research support covers a broad array of observational, theoretical, and laboratory research aimed at understanding the origins and characteristics of planets, the Sun, other stars, our galaxy, extragalactic objects, and the structure and origin of the Universe.