



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Photo: NSF/Stephen Voss

I am pleased to present the National Science Foundation's *Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Agency Financial Report (AFR)*. NSF's mission is to promote and advance the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure our Nation's defense. We achieve this mission through our strategic, long-term commitment to investing in research in all fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and all levels of STEM education.

In FY 2021, funding provided by Congress through the American Rescue Plan Act enabled NSF to invest in a dynamic research portfolio that focused on the people and institutions in the research community that have been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In tandem with these critical investments, NSF continued its long-standing mission of expanding the frontiers of scientific knowledge and enhancing the well-being of millions of Americans through investments in basic research. These are strategic investments that span the whole spectrum of science and engineering disciplines, strengthen education at every level, and enhance industries from transportation and computing to manufacturing and agriculture. This AFR highlights just a sampling of the ground-breaking discoveries and innovations NSF helped foster this fiscal year.

People are the heart of the research enterprise, which is why NSF is focused on programs designed to promote STEM education and career opportunities. U.S. competitiveness is strengthened by unleashing STEM talent from all communities. Broadening participation has long been an agency-wide focus. The cornerstone of these efforts is NSF INCLUDES (Inclusion Across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science), which is a large-scale network of alliances built to find innovative ways for inclusivity to bring diverse talent into NSF-funded fields of science. In addition to strengthening the STEM workforce, NSF cultivates partnerships to accelerate discovery and the translation of research results into products and services. NSF programs flourish when the Foundation partners with other U.S. federal agencies, industry groups, private foundations, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations.

With the publication of the FY 2021 Agency Financial Report, I am pleased to report that for 24 consecutive years, NSF has received an unmodified "clean" opinion on its financial statements. The independent auditors did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. In addition, NSF provided reasonable assurance that the agency complied with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and that internal controls were operating effectively to support accurate financial reporting. The AFR also includes summary performance information for FY 2021. For more information on NSF's performance management process and the complete results of our FY 2021 annual goals under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010, I invite you to read NSF's Annual Performance Report, which will be released with NSF's FY 2023 Budget Request to Congress.

NSF has always aimed to uphold the highest standards of accountability and transparency, and the importance of science and engineering research during this pandemic has only strengthened our commitment. NSF's workforce has shown tremendous dedication to advancing the frontiers of research and innovation, to ensuring accessibility and inclusivity, and to sustaining the Nation's global leadership in science and engineering. Our Nation is on a path toward a brighter future, and NSF is proud to be part of that journey.

/s/

Sethuraman Panchanathan

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