AAU SUPPORTS THE ADMINISTRATION’S PROPOSED BUDGET OF $7.4 BILLION FOR THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) IN FY11

This increase of $551.8 million, or 8 percent, over FY10 funding will allow NSF to sustain and expand its vital research and education programs. The request supports the bipartisan commitment made by the Administration and Congress to significantly increase funding for basic scientific research over the next several years.

NSF SUPPORTS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND DISCOVERY THAT ENHANCES THE NATION’S QUALITY OF LIFE

As the only federal agency charged with the promotion of scientific progress across all scientific and engineering disciplines, NSF is the cornerstone of America’s basic research enterprise. The agency supports basic research and education at colleges and universities across the country through research and education grants and grants for scientific equipment and infrastructure. More than 240,000 students, educators, and researchers benefit directly from NSF programs.

NSF RESEARCH

For the last 60 years, NSF has funded discoveries that have helped drive the nation’s economy, improve our quality of life, and enhance national security. The Administration’s FY11 budget request continues to foster and support this spirit of innovation, by requesting an appropriation of $6 billion for the agency’s Research and Related Activities directorate (R&RA).

AAU urges Members of Congress to appropriate at least $6 billion for the R&RA directorate.

NSF EDUCATION

NSF is the only federal agency tasked with strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels, from pre-kindergarten to post-doctorate. The proposed FY11 budget of $892 million for the Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate reflects several important Administration goals. These include increasing the number of underrepresented minorities and women in the STEM disciplines and tripling the number of NSF graduate fellows by FY13. AAU urges Members of Congress to appropriate at least $892 million for the EHR directorate, an amount which includes $107 million for Graduate Research Fellowships, $48 million for Graduate STEM Fellows in K-12 Education, and $29.5 million for Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeships.

NSF INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

Because support for research infrastructure and equipment is an essential part of the Foundation’s mission, the Administration is requesting $165 million for the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction directorate (MREFC) in FY11. AAU urges Members of Congress to appropriate $165 million for the MREFC directorate, as well as the $90 million requested for the Major Research Instrumentation program.