AAU URGES SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR NSF IN FY13

As the only federal agency charged with the promotion of scientific progress across all of the scientific and engineering disciplines, NSF is the cornerstone of America’s basic scientific research enterprise. For over 60 years, NSF has also maintained a strong commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. The FY13 NSF budget request supports core NSF science, engineering, and education programs, and also establishes a new set of investments under the “OneNSF Framework,” to create new knowledge, stimulate discovery, and address complex societal and environmental challenges.

AAU urges Congress to appropriate $7.3 billion for NSF in FY13, the same amount requested by the Administration. This total includes $5.9 billion for Research and Related Activities, $875.6 million for Education and Human Resources, and $196 million for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction.

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

Since its establishment in 1950, NSF has supported fundamental research that covers the entire spectrum of science and engineering research and enables the United States to address domestic and global challenges. Along with sustaining the agency’s commitment to its core research and education programs, NSF’s FY13 budget request includes the OneNSF Framework initiative, whose goal is to create seamless operations across organizational and disciplinary boundaries.

Highlights: The OneNSF Framework encompasses a dynamic set of priorities including: NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corp); Cyberinfrastructure Framework for 21st Century Science and Engineering (CIF-21); Expeditions in Education (E²); and the Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education program (INSPIRE). The FY13 request also supports the government-wide initiative on advanced manufacturing.

NSF SUPPORTS THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, AND LEADERS IN INNOVATION

For the 62 years of its existence, an important part of NSF’s mission has been to improve STEM education in the United States and to prepare the next generation STEM workforce. NSF’s undergraduate and graduate education programs, such as Graduate Research Fellowships (GRF), Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeships (IGERT), and Transforming Undergraduate Ed in STEM (TUES), are helping foster the next generation of innovators, as well as a scientifically literate workforce and society. Under the new re-framing of the Education and Human Resources Directorate, NSF’s Division of Graduate Education will serve as the lead on developing a STEM Professional Workforce.

Highlights: The FY13 request includes $216.4 million for the Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER); $243 million for Graduate Research Fellowships (GRF); and $51.6 million for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program (IGERT).
CONGRESS SHOULD MAKE NSF FUNDING A PRIORITY IN FY13

AAU urges Congress to support robust and sustained funding for NSF and its major accounts:

- **Research and Related Activities.** Fundamental, interdisciplinary, and transformative research is needed to ensure U.S. competitiveness and innovation.

- **Education and Human Resources.** Strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels— from pre-kindergarten to post-doctoral— is essential for the development and advancement of the nation’s 21st century workforce.

- **Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction.** The construction of research facilities and the development of cutting-edge scientific tools and equipment are essential to NSF’s mission and the nation’s scientific enterprise.

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### NSF RESEARCH FACTS

- **NSF Supports a Wide Variety of Research and Educational Activities**
  - NSF does not operate its own laboratories, but awards competitive research and education grants to researchers at institutions around the country. The agency also helps support national research centers, multi-user facilities, oceanographic vessels, and state-of-the-art, ground-based telescopes.

- **Competitively Awarded Research is Integral to the Research Enterprise**
  - In FY13, NSF expects to evaluate 55,000 proposals through the competitive merit review process and to make approximately 12,000 new awards. Approximately 77 percent of NSF funds are awarded to U.S. academic institutions (colleges, universities, and academic consortia).
  - In any given year, NSF makes awards to investigators at 1,900 colleges, universities, and other institutions, public and private, in all 50 states.
  - In FY13, NSF expects to support 285,000 researchers, postdoctoral fellows, trainees, and K-12 teachers and students.
  - In many fields of research, NSF is the dominant source of academic funding. For example, NSF provides 81 percent of federal support for basic research in computer science, 64 percent in both the biological sciences and mathematics, and 61 percent in the social sciences.

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