

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is one of our nation's largest sources of support for research in engineering and the physical sciences and the advancement of science, mathematics, and engineering education at all grade levels.

Its purpose is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

- NSF's annual budget represents 22 percent of the total federal budget for basic research conducted at U.S. colleges and universities. NSF awards reach nearly 1,900 colleges, universities, and other public and private institutions.
- NSF provides critical support for the next generation of scientists and engineers from kindergarten through graduate school.
- To date, 196 Nobel Prize winners, including five of the 2011 Nobel laureates, received NSF support at some point in their career.
- NSF-funded discoveries include:
 - New optical technology that may lead to detection of early and advanced stages of pancreatic cancer without the need for surgery. (Virginia Tech)
 - Transforming the iPhone into a medical-quality imaging and chemical detection device. (University of California-Davis)
 - A new world record for data transfer helping to usher in the next generation of high speed networks technology. (Cal Tech, Univ. Michigan & other partners)

OSA urges Congress to make science research a national priority in the FY 2013 budget.

NSF BUDGET

FY 2012

Total FY 2011 budget:
\$7.033 billion

FY 2013 Request

President Obama has requested \$7.4 billion for the NSF in FY 2012, a 5 percent increase.

Research & Related Activities would receive \$5.9 billion while Education & Human Resources would receive \$875 million.

NSF will continue its focus on manufacturing. FY 2013 funding will be used to support transformative research in advanced technology manufacturing by making manufacturing processes faster, cheaper and more efficient.

The budget request is expected to reach 285,000 researchers, postdoctoral fellows, trainees, teachers and students.



Advancing the Science
and Technology of Light