



Coalition for National Science Funding

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) appreciates Congress' recommended increases for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY 2007 and urges Congress to ensure the funding levels approved by the House and the Senate appropriations committee remain intact during conference or omnibus. The recommended funding level is expected to support about 500 more research grants in 2007 and an estimated 6,400 additional scientists, students, and postdoctoral fellows.

The NSF plays a key role in supporting basic science in the United States. Knowledge gained from the NSF studies directly benefits industry and contributes to the economy and US international competitiveness. Examples of major innovations spawned by NSF research include:

- In the mid-1990s, two NSF-supported graduate students discovered a better way of searching data on the Internet and used their idea to found Google, Inc., a \$50-billion company that employs more than 2,000 people.
- Fundamental research supported by NSF led to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), which is used widely to detect cancer and internal tissue damage and is predicted to be a \$110-billion industry by 2007.
- In the late 1960s, an NSF sponsored researcher studying the microbiology of extreme environments led to the basis for developing the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which made genome sequencing practical and fueled the revolution in biotechnology -- an industry with annual revenues of about \$40 billion.
- NSF-supported basic research in geography and computer science led to the development of Geographic Information Systems used by businesses; police departments; federal, state and local governments, and others to respond to disasters (including 9/11), reduce crime, and provide better services to customers.

The NSF plays a critical role in ensuring the health of the nation's research and education system, the principal source of new ideas and human resources in science and engineering:

- NSF's programs reach over 2,000 institutions across the nation, and they involve roughly 200,000 researchers, teachers, and students.
- NSF is the primary federal agency charged with promoting science and engineering education at all levels and in all settings, from pre-kindergarten through career development.

We urge Congress to ensure the funding levels approved by the House and the Senate appropriations committee for this essential agency remain intact during conference or omnibus.