THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) is the only federal agency whose mission includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering.

“Some in public office have forgotten the indispensable role of higher education in the pursuit of the American Dream. Others overlook the ways that university research promotes economic growth through path-breaking discoveries.”

— Dr. Peter Salovey, President, Yale University

EXAMPLES OF NSF-FUNDED RESEARCH IN CONNECTICUT

- NSF-funded researchers at Yale University have developed a new way to predict the presence of cancer-causing compounds in drinking water, which result from the water disinfection process. The information will help municipalities as they upgrade their water systems.

- A virtual herbarium at the University of Connecticut provides online access to thousands of plant records. The project, which is supported by NSF, includes contemporary and historic plant specimens, including samples collected by Henry David Thoreau.

- Researchers at Yale University and the University of Delaware have created a tiny polymer that self-assembles into a structure that changes color from white to orange when exposed to an electric current. The particle could be used to improve the energy efficiency of electronic inks used in e-readers.

INVESTMENT IN SCIENCE = INVESTMENT IN CONNECTICUT

- Connecticut ranks 7th in the nation for number of high science, engineering, and technology businesses as a percentage of all businesses.¹

- Connecticut businesses attracted $223 million in venture capital investment in 2016.¹

- In 2016, over 35 percent of higher education degrees awarded in Connecticut were in Science or Engineering.¹

- Yale and the University of Connecticut are ranked in the top 100 U.S. academic institutions in terms of science and engineering expenditures.¹

- In 2015, Connecticut ranked 3rd in a measure of state population with graduate training in science, engineering, and health.¹

- Connecticut conducted nearly $10 billion in research and development in 2015.¹

¹ Science and Engineering Indicators: 2016, NSF
Since 1952, NSF has supported over 50,000 graduate students through research fellowships.

Connecticut received $13 million in NSF educational funding in FY 2017.

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) not only funds cutting-edge research at institutions across the country; NSF’s education initiatives ensure the U.S. will remain a global leader in innovation for generations to come.

EXAMPLES OF NSF-FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CONNECTICUT

- The University of Bridgeport is partnering with nearby high-need school districts to create a Teaching Fellowship/Master Teaching Fellowship. The program will recruit, prepare, and retain secondary science teachers for urban schools in southwestern Connecticut.

- The University of Connecticut offers a unique opportunity for graduate students to pursue interdisciplinary research on human language development. The Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship prepares Ph.D. scientists to pursue careers in the cognitive and biological sciences.

- The Pathways to Academic Excellence program at Southern Connecticut State University awards full scholarships to undergraduate students to pursue interdisciplinary science degrees. Students engage in faculty-mentored research and internships and receive other support to minimize roadblocks to student success.

“But we at research institutions have consistently done a poor job of explaining what it is we do exactly and what distinguishes us. Most important: We educate, advise, mentor, guide and graduate our students – from bachelor’s degrees to PhDs.”

- Dr. Susan Herbst, President, University of Connecticut

“Science education teaches students to raise questions, to persevere in search of answers, to reason logically, and to distinguish between unsubstantiated claims and those that have valid and reliable substantiation. All students need opportunities to refine and strengthen their scientific content knowledge and scientific inquiry skills on a continuum from preschool through high school and beyond.”

- Position statement of the Connecticut State Board of Education