



Coalition for National Science Funding

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) appreciates Congress' efforts to increase funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY 2008. We support the increases passed in the House and in the Senate Appropriations Committee and as the appropriations process progresses, urge the Congress to support a compromise of these two budget levels.

The NSF plays a key role in supporting fundamental scientific discovery in the United States. Knowledge gained from NSF supported research contributes to the economy and U.S. 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.