The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) thanks Congress for its past support of the National Science Foundation (NSF). We recognize that Congress is facing difficult decisions with respect to our national fiscal health. As discussions on FY 2012 appropriations begin, we encourage Members of Congress to make continued federal funding for NSF a priority. Robust federal support for NSF, the cornerstone of America’s research enterprise, is absolutely critical to the nation’s economic health and global competitiveness.

CNSF recommends an FY 2012 NSF budget of $7.767 billion. This budget level is consistent with the FY 2012 Budget Request and with the America COMPETES Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-358), signed into law on January 4 of this year. This level is also compatible with the funding schedule initiated by the previous administration’s American Competitiveness Initiative and with the original America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69) passed in August 2007.

Many of our global competitors are increasing their financial support for scientific and engineering research while the rate of growth of funding for research in the U.S. is slowing. The U.S. must maintain its leadership position in high level scientific research and education and NSF is critical to this endeavor. Even under tight budget constraints, it is imperative to have robust annual budget levels for NSF. Dependable funding levels will enable the Foundation and the science and engineering communities to plan, develop infrastructure, maintain a steady pipeline of graduate and postdoctoral students, and facilitate a continuous stream of high level research and researchers that in turn will support the level of technological development needed for economic growth.

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform noted that while it is necessary to make budget cuts, “at the same time we must invest in education, infrastructure, and high value research and development to help our economy grow, keep us globally competitive, and make it easier for businesses to create jobs.” NSF is the only federal agency that supports research and education across all fields of science, engineering, and mathematics and at all educational levels. Research and education programs supported by NSF increase and develop the knowledge base needed for pushing the frontiers of science, mathematics, and engineering disciplines, contribute to the development of the future science and technology workforce, develop new fields of inquiry, and promote interdisciplinary research and education, all of which facilitate technological innovation.

In FY 2010, over 90 percent of NSF’s budget went to support research, facilities, and education projects in colleges and universities in all 50 states. The Foundation evaluated over 55,600 proposals through its merit review process, funding 13,000 of these proposals. This is a success rate of 23 percent, indicating the competitiveness of NSF grants. The success rate will continue to fall if NSF budgets don’t grow and potential substantial research and education results will not be realized. A healthy NSF is necessary for maintaining a prosperous innovation pipeline that ultimately leads to the development of new technologies, leading to new products and improvement of existing products.
Coalition For National Science Funding

Afterschool Alliance
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
American Geophysical Union
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society for Civil Engineers
American Society for Limnology & Oceanography
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS)
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Mathematics
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA)
Association of University Research Parks
The Bagley Group, LLC
Binghamton University
Biophysical Society
California Institute of Technology
Center for Inquiry
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
College of Saint Elizabeth
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
Ecological Society of America
Farnham Consulting Inc.
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Federation of Materials Societies
Geological Society of America
Geological Society of America
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE-USA)
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
Linguistic Society of America
MWW Group
George Mason University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Mathematical Association of America
Michigan State University
Museum of Science, Boston
National Corn Growers Association
National Council for Science and the Environment
National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)
National Postdoctoral Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oldaker, Belair & Wittie
Optical Society of America
Oregon State University
Ornithological Council
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Princeton University
Protein Society
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Research!America
Rowan University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Scientists and Engineers for America
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
Soil Science Society of America
SPIE
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stevens Institute of Technology
Texas Tech University
University at Buffalo, SUNY
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
University of California
University of Cincinnati
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University of Michigan
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
University of Southern California
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution