



From the Inspector General

Pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, section 5(b), I am pleased to present this summary of our accomplishments for the six-month period ending September 30, 2002. As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Inspector General Act, I take great pride in the accomplishments and contributions of our own Office of Inspector General and the larger IG community. The audits, investigations, reviews and other activities described in this report have one common attribute: all are aimed at improving the accountability and performance of our awardee community, the National Science Foundation, and our own OIG.

The past six months have been a busy period. Our office issued 21 audit reports that identified \$9.7 million in promised cost sharing that is at-risk of not being contributed, and an additional \$869,133 in questioned costs. We also identified \$444,103 in funds that could be put to better use. We closed 18 civil/criminal cases, 29 administrative cases, and made \$327,973 in recoveries. We also referred two cases to the Department of Justice.

These are both exciting and challenging times for the science community and NSF. As the agency's budget continues to grow, and the complexity of science and technology increases, those of us involved with the agency's oversight must continuously improve our work methods to keep pace. Our OIG has recently undertaken several initiatives to improve our operations. We are in the process of developing a new knowledge management system that will improve efficiency. We have also enhanced the effectiveness of our annual audit planning by conducting a comprehensive risk assessment of NSF operations. Following on our strategic plan, we published our first performance plan last year, and plan to survey our employees each year to get their candid assessment of all of our efforts.

Finally, many changes have occurred in the leadership and composition of the National Science Board over the past six months. We warmly welcome Dr. Warren Washington as Chairman of the NSB, Dr. Mark Wrighton as Chairman of the Audit and Oversight Committee, and nine new members appointed last month by the President to the NSB who are awaiting Senate confirmation. The continuing support of the Board for this office over the past six months has been appreciated and has a direct bearing on our effectiveness. We look forward to working with NSB members, and the NSF Director and staff, to continue to improve an organization that already has many accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine C. Boesz".

Christine C. Boesz, Dr.P.H.
Inspector General
November 6, 2001

