

MEMORANDUM TO THE READER

SUBJECT: Section 22 Report to Congress

Fulfilling the Promise: A Report to Congress on the Budgetary and Programmatic Expansion of the National Science Foundation provides the official response of the National Science Board to the Congress, as required by Section 22 of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Authorization Act of 2002. The National Science Board was established by the Congress in 1950. It has 24 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, plus the NSF Director as an *ex officio* member. The Board has dual responsibilities to:

- Oversee and guide the activities of, and establish policies for, the NSF; and
- Serve as an independent national science policy body that provides advice to the President and the Congress on policy issues related to science and engineering that have been identified by the President, Congress or the Board itself.

As part of this latter responsibility, and as directed by the Congress, the Board prepared this report. The report received formal Board approval on December 4, 2003, and has been delivered to the three Congressional Committees listed in the legislation as recipients of the report, as well as to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Office of Management and Budget.

It is important to note that the recommendations are provided at a very broad level and assume full implementation of the authorized increase in NSF's budget to \$9.8 billion in FY07. While this funding level will significantly enhance NSF's ability to address many unmet needs identified by the Board, the report estimates that approximately \$19 billion would be required to fully address all unmet needs. However, the Board is also cognizant of the current realities of the demands on a finite federal budget.

The specific charge by the Congress, succinct nature of this report, and macro-scale recommendations for allocation of authorized budget increases do not allow for specifically highlighting many important issues (i.e., global climate change, homeland security) that NSF programs address directly and indirectly. In addition, the present federal budget realities will require the NSF and the Board to adjust the planned budget and programmatic expansion to fit actual yearly increments. However, the Board feels strongly that the current positive momentum for annual increases to the NSF budget must be maintained in order to enhance NSF's ability to address these issues, and ensure continued US leadership in the international science, engineering and technology enterprise.


Warren M. Washington
Chair

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