



National Science Foundation
Office of the Director

May 7, 2024

Dear STEM Teachers:

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week! On behalf of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and its NSF Directorate for STEM Education (EDU), I write to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for everything you do for students.

Each day, you ignite students' intellectual curiosity, cultivate their genius, and help them overcome any difficult challenges inside and outside the classroom. My former teachers played a major role in deepening my love for learning, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Therefore, never question your importance to students and the Nation.

Your influence on students has far-reaching effects in the classroom and beyond. Across the Nation, there is a great need to improve access, preparation, and participation in STEM, especially among underrepresented and underserved populations. To this end, NSF is committed through its investments to support teachers, create technologies that advance teaching and learning, and conduct use-inspired, applied, and basic research in education.

To name a few, the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (NOYCE), Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12), Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), and Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) programs are some of NSF major investments. EDU is currently developing a new program for STEM teachers in which it hopes to roll out later this year or sometime FY2025.

Mother Teresa once said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." As teachers and educators, you are changing the lives of every student you encounter, one stone and one ripple, at a time. Despite the challenges, you have answered the call to ensure every student receives quality instruction and equitable support required to thrive.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication for educating the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

Sincerely,

Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director