



A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

This month, I want to share with you a wonderful example of the exciting energy that National Science Foundation (NSF) partnerships can generate. One of NSF's newest initiatives, the [Community College Innovation Challenge](#) (CCIC), was developed with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and launched in 2014. This annual competition encourages teams of students from around the country to produce innovative, research-based solutions to real-world issues. To develop their projects, the teams work alongside faculty mentors and industry partners. At an "innovation boot camp," finalists meet with experts who offer tips on translating their projects into commercial products. They also spend time on Capitol Hill, presenting their projects to members of Congress and their staffs.



Through programs like CCIC and partnerships with organizations like AACC, NSF leverages the creativity, entrepreneurship, and ingenuity of students, while also broadening participation in STEM fields and connecting with industry in a very practical way. These elements are critical to strengthening innovation. That's why we launched NSF INCLUDES, an initiative that forges new partnerships that can scale up efforts in broadening participation in STEM. Our goal is to enhance the pathways to science and engineering for all citizens, particularly for those who have been traditionally underrepresented. Please join me in considering additional opportunities to strengthen resources that will enhance the 21st century science and engineering workforce.

Dr. France A. Córdoba
Director, National Science Foundation
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