



Photo: NSF/Stephen Voss

I am pleased to present the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) *Fiscal Year 2023 Agency Financial Report*. The AFR is NSF's principal report demonstrating our commitment to sound financial management and providing key financial and performance information to our stakeholders and the American people.

For 73 years, NSF-funded research programs and initiatives have advanced knowledge that fosters scientific innovation, drives the economy, strengthens national security, and enhances the well-being of Americans. Today, many of the technologies and industries at the root of U.S. economic competitiveness — such as advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, microelectronics and semiconductors, and quantum computing — emerged from and are

accelerated by NSF investments.

In FY 2023, NSF's research goals were emboldened by the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, an historic investment by Congress and the Administration that is already sharpening the focus on technology and innovation. In tandem with our continued focus on supporting curiosity-driven research, NSF leadership is positioning the agency to foster knowledge transfer at speed and scale that accelerates the adoption of new technologies, safeguards U.S. investments through enhanced research security, and strengthens the discovery ecosystem. To facilitate these important goals, the Foundation has continued to encourage diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within the NSF workforce, ensure equity in the implementation and execution of NSF programs, and to develop domestic STEM talent across every geographic region and demographic background. Investing in U.S. STEM research and development with complementary investments in the workforce enterprise unleashes opportunities for everyone and innovation everywhere.

NSF programs are built on the solid foundation of careful stewardship of public funds and reporting of accurate data and information on NSF's fiscal operations, as detailed in this report. With the publication of the *FY 2023 Agency Financial Report*, I am pleased to report that for 26 consecutive years, NSF has received an unmodified "clean" opinion on its financial statements. The independent auditors did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. In addition, NSF provided reasonable assurance that the agency complied with the "Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act" and that internal controls were operating effectively to support accurate financial reporting. The AFR also includes summary performance information for FY 2023. For more information on NSF's performance management process and the complete results of our FY 2023 annual goals under the "Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010," I invite you to read NSF's *Annual Performance Report*, which will be released with NSF's *FY 2025 Budget Request to Congress*.

Thank you for your interest in the National Science Foundation—where discoveries begin.

/s/

**Sethuraman Panchanathan**

November 14, 2023