

Expand Public and Private Partnerships

Goal Leaders: CISE (Calvert) and BIO (Deshler)
Deputy Goal Leaders: CISE (Houghton) and BIO (Bracken)

Theme: General Science, Space and Technology

Overview

Goal Statement

- Expand public and private partnerships to enhance the impact of NSF's investments and contribute to American economic competitiveness and security. By September 30, 2019, NSF's number of partnerships and/or award actions with other federal agencies, private industry, and foundations/philanthropies will grow by 5 percent, relative to the FY 2017 baseline, to make available infrastructure, expertise, and financial resources to the US scientific and engineering research and education enterprise.

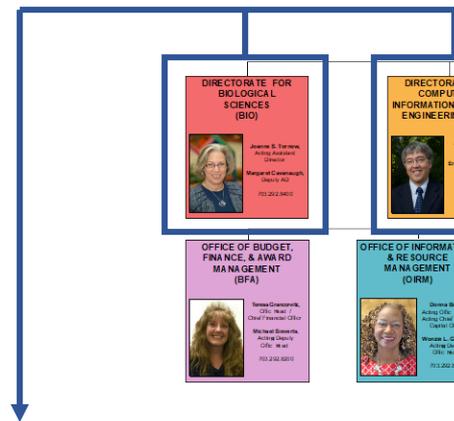
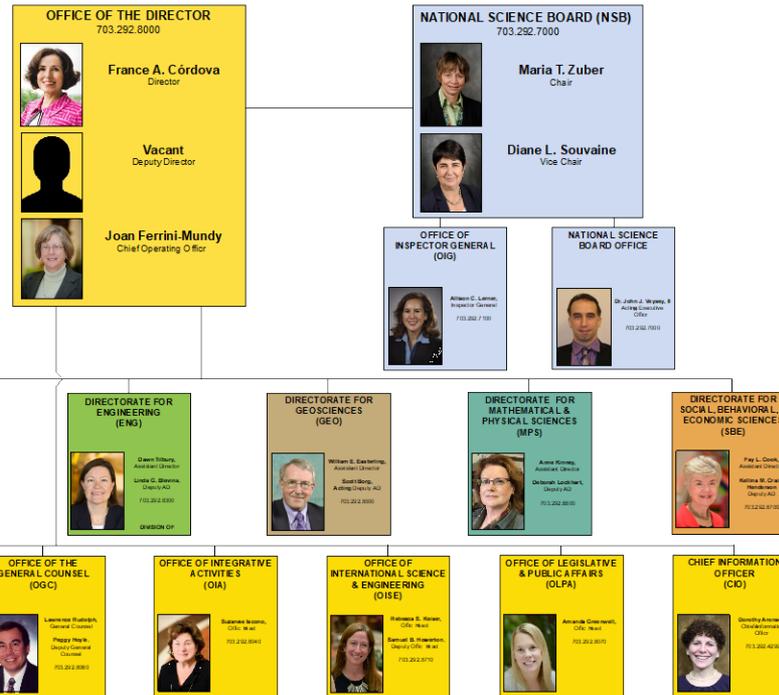
Challenge/Opportunity

- Private industry, foundations, and non-profits, together with other federal agencies and international funding organizations, bring additional expertise, resources, and capacity to NSF-funded research. This, in turn, accelerates discovery and translation of research to products and services, and enhances preparation of the future workforce to benefit society and grow the American economy.
- Partnerships require significant time and intellectual capital, as well as strategic foresight, in their development. NSF will improve efficiencies in developing, implementing, and managing partnerships to ultimately grow the number and scope of partnerships and maximize the scientific, economic, and societal impacts of its investments.

Leadership



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



APG Co-Leads:

Jim Deshler: Deputy Division Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences

Ken Calvert: Division Director, Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering

APG Deputy Co-Leads:

Tara Bracken: Science Writer, Directorate for Biological Sciences

Meghan Houghton: Staff Associate, Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering

Goal Structure & Strategies

NSF will pursue the APG by implementing a strategic vision for future partnerships that builds upon existing and emerging experience. NSF will enhance and expand its investments along three axes:

- Research and innovation;
- Research infrastructure; and
- Workforce development.

Toward each axis, NSF will pursue a multipronged strategy aligned with its mission. The elements of this process include:

- Strategically identify opportunities with potential partners (e.g., workshops, meetings, other outreach).
- Work externally as well as internally to efficiently formalize partnerships (e.g., formulate and sign MOUs, streamline MOU processes internally).
- Implement partnerships (e.g., issue new or updated funding opportunities, make awards, execute agreements).

Summary of Progress – FY 18 Q1

Q1

- Directorate leadership was determined.
- Logic model of strategies to achieve the goal was drafted.
- Process for establishing a baseline for NSF's partnerships in FY17 was initiated.
- Multiple Advisory Committees discussed the role of partnerships in NSF's investments (without reference to APG).

Q2 as of 2/15/18

- Inventory instrument was piloted in two directorates and issued agency-wide.
- NSF Senior Management team was briefed on APG activities and Action Plan.
- APG Implementation Team is currently being formed.

Summary of Progress – FY 18 Q2

Q2

- Partnerships inventory instrument was issued agency-wide.
- NSF Senior Management team was briefed on APG activities and Action Plan.
- Goal Statement was published.
- Request for nominees to APG Implementation Team was issued.
- Additional Advisory Committees discussed the role of partnerships in NSF's investments and the strategy for expanding partnerships.

Key Milestones

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Activity	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
Stage 0: Partnerships Inventory and APG Implementation Team	Start: Q1, FY 2018; End: Q3, FY 2018	On-Track	n/a	APG Leads and Deputies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory instrument issued agency-wide. • APG Implementation Team Leads and Deputies confirmed. • APG Implementation Team currently being formed.
Stage 1: Identify Partnership Opportunities.	FY 2018	On-Track	n/a	APG Implementation Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions externally with potential partners and internally regarding strategy.
Stage 2: Formalize Partnerships.	Late 2018	On-Track	n/a	APG Implementation Team + Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions internally regarding optimizing processes.
Stage 3: Implement Partnerships.	No earlier than Q1 FY 2019	On-Track	n/a	APG Implementation Team + Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions to implement new partnerships previously in process.

Key Indicators

- Partnerships and/or Award Actions data will be available after Q2.
- In Q2 and Q3, an inventory instrument is being developed and implemented to collect reliable information on the number and types of partnerships and/or award actions in use at NSF. This instrument will establish the FY 2017 value, and will be used each subsequent year to chart progress. More details about measurement methodology will be available in the second half of FY 2018.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

NSF-wide Implementation Team will determine data sources and the data collection methodology in the second half of FY18. The methodology will be consistent across FY17 (baseline year), FY18, and FY19.

Considerations in establishing the methodology include:

- Data quality;
- Verification and validation of data; and
- Identification and mitigation of data limitations.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- Once formalized, partners will be listed here.

Program Activities:

- Directorates for Biological Sciences; Computer and Information Science and Engineering; Education and Human Resources; Engineering; Geological Sciences; Mathematics and Physical Sciences; and Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences.

Regulations:

- N/A

Tax Expenditures:

- N/A

Policies:

- Opportunities to streamline the MOU process will be investigated as part of this APG.
- Best practices for engagement with external stakeholders, including rules of engagement, will be defined and refined.

Other Federal Activities:

- Once formalized, agency partners will be listed here.

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

Discussions about the role of partnerships at NSF have been initiated with multiple Advisory Committees in FY 2018.