



## Federal Investment in Advanced Networking and IT

### Background

The federal government is a vital source of funds for information technology programs. More than 50 percent of all academic research is funded by the federal government. Funds are also made available to improve undergraduate and graduate IT programs and to attract and retain more students. IT research and training have been cited by Congress as critical to the nation's future economic health.

Congress, as granted in the Constitution, is the only government body allowed to raise revenue and is responsible for distributing it for the "general Welfare of the United States." The money collection and distribution process starts with the federal budget, proposed by the president, and works its way through the Congressional Appropriations Committees in both the Senate and the House as a series of bills. When consensus is reached, the bill becomes law and the money is distributed to the various government agencies. The individual federal agencies determine who the final grant recipients are.

### Significance for EDUCAUSE Members

EDUCAUSE members are recipients of program funds and research grants from National Science Foundation (NSF) through grant competitions sponsored by its Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). The National Library of Medicine (NLM), through grants from its Next Generation Internet initiative, is another source of grant funding for our membership. Increased federal investment in networking and information technology not only allows the higher education community to continue to be research leaders but also provides non-R1 institutions the opportunity to collaborate with their peers over advanced networks.

### Current EDUCAUSE Position

EDUCAUSE supports doubling the NSF budget and increasing federal funding designated for networking and information technology-related programs. We seek to educate federal policymakers on the societal benefits of advanced networking and information technology to justifying increased federal investment in networking and IT research.

### Leading the Funding Effort at the Federal Level

The House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees on HUD/VA and the Independent Agencies (including NASA and EPA) are responsible for supporting the NSF. In recent years there has been excellent bipartisan support for increasing NSF funding.

United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, <<http://appropriations.senate.gov/>>.

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, <<http://appropriations.house.gov/>>.

The House Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Research is often the catalyst for recommended funding for the NSF and has a strong relationship with the higher education community, <<http://www.house.gov/science/committeeinfo/members/research/index.htm>>.

The White House is advised by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (<http://www.ostp.gov/>) and the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (<http://www.hpcc.gov/pitac/index.html>) on networking and IT funding priorities.

## **Resources**

Sandy Streeter, "The Congressional Appropriations Process: An Introduction," Congressional Research Service, July 29, 2003, <<http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/97-684.pdf>>.

National Science Foundation, Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), <<http://www.nsf.gov/home/cise/>>.

The CISE programmatic crosswalk maps former CISE programs and program solicitations to new ones reflective of the reorganization, <[http://www.cise.nsf.gov/news/pubs/program\\_crosswalk.pdf](http://www.cise.nsf.gov/news/pubs/program_crosswalk.pdf)>.