

NASA NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (SPACE GRANT)

FY 2006 REQUEST: *NSGA requests a FY 2006 Appropriation for Space Grant of \$29,550,000, a \$1,350,000 million increase over the FY 2005 Appropriation and a \$10,450,000 million increase over the President's Request.*

WHAT DOES SPACE GRANT DO?

Space Grant was established in 1988 and is now a nationwide network of 867 universities, colleges, federal R&D centers and business partners, located in 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The Space Grant network is inspiring "the next generation of explorers" through a myriad of activities and programs that:

- Engage over 1700 undergraduate and 500 graduate students in practical education and research experiences in space sciences and related fields (22% of participants are minority students and 44% are women).
- Infuse NASA space exploration goals, knowledge, and materials into the education experiences of K-12 students and teachers.
- Assist high-potential young faculty to become NASA Project Investigators and effective partners with NASA centers and contractors.

WHY WE NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDS?

- Since 1999, 16 studies and reports concerning the workforce challenges facing NASA and related technology companies show that increasing the number of math and science students is needed to meet the demand.
- Space Grant is an established and effective national mechanism for meeting the NASA and state need to attract and retain students in technical careers.
- State Consortia receive minimal support - only \$215,000 to \$475,000 per year.
- **FY 2003 National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program Fact Sheet** shows evidence of the program's remarkable impact.

HOW WE WILL UTILIZE \$29,550,000

- Strengthen the national network structure by funding 34 states at \$600,000 and 18 states at \$425,000.
- \$1,500,000 for SG Network Enhancement Award (Competitive Award that would allow Space Grant the opportunity to broaden its participants and increase the number of participating institutions)

IMPACT OF INCREASED FUNDING

- Dramatically increase and link undergraduate and graduate students to NASA field centers.
- Increase Research Experiences for undergraduates by maintaining and expanding the Student Satellite Initiative and young faculty research development.
- Sustain K-12 Programs and link to new Code N Initiatives by providing training workshops and after-school programs to assist faculty and teachers and to attract and motivate students into relevant career tracks.

Taken together, these activities will help to support movement by NASA and Congress to address the national "brain drain" issue in the aerospace engineering workforce. NASA, through its national Space Grant consortia network and affiliate programs can effectively encourage and improve the likelihood of young people to pursue careers in science and technology fields.