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WHY DOES NSF MATTER?
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WHAT DOES NSF DO?
In 2020, the National Science Foundation (NSF) celebrates its 70th anniversary, also known as the "platinum anniversary." As platinum is a catalyst in chemical reactions, NSF is a catalyst for scientific innovation as it is the only federal agency to support fundamental research in all fields of science and engineering.

Since its founding in 1950, the independent federal agency has promoted the progress of science, advanced the country’s prosperity, welfare, and health, and secured the nation. The agency’s focus to advance knowledge and unearth discoveries for the benefit of society has charted the course of American innovation.

NSF invests in the studies that underpin our economy, including "high-risk, high pay-off" ideas, novel collaborations, and numerous projects that may seem like science fiction today, but will shape our future in meaningful ways.

WHAT SCIENCE DOES NSF FUND AT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON?

- PREVENTING SPREAD OF DISEASE
  Isolating non-biting mosquito genes to prevent spread of diseases

- LASERS
  Using lasers and computational methods to impact acid rain, atmospheric aerosols, and oil spill remediation

- FISH ADAPTATION
  Discovering genomic regions that allow ocean-dwelling fish to adapt to fresh water environments

- MATHEMATICAL MODELING
  Mathematical modeling and NSF-shared computing resources help identify key variables required to make consistently tasty coffee

- ENGAGING THE PUBLIC
  Translating volcanic data into sound and music to create new ways to engage public around science

- EARLY EVIDENCE OF HUMANS
  DNA from human coprolites (dried feces) shows earliest evidence of humans in North America

- NEURO IMAGING
  Using neuro imaging to measure and improve mathematics interventions for at risk learners

- GLACIAL MELTING
  Discovering glaciers are potentially melting as much as 100 times faster than predicted

- AGRICULTURE
  Reducing pollution/fertilizer use through invention of molecular sensor that detects nitrate levels in soil

- INNOVATION PIPELINE
  Preparing 3,500 teachers to deliver nationally-scaled intro to computer science curriculum that has attracted and retained diverse set of high school students