

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
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Photo by Sam Kittner

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Dear Colleague:

America's security, prosperity and well-being depend more and more on the vitality of our science and engineering workforce. With today's intense global competition for ideas and talent, we must sustain our nation's educational momentum.

To that end, the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program has been improving the productivity of American industries by increasing the nation's technical workforce and developing best practices in technician education. The program, which supports both ATE centers and projects through competitive grants, is NSF's premier initiative with two-year colleges.

Through this report, I invite you to explore the success of the ATE centers. They are national resources for training technicians in strategic advanced technology fields. The centers—spanning six areas of expertise—respond to national industry needs by equipping students with key skills required to excel in high-tech workplaces; increasing enrollment in educational programs that serve critical sectors; and serving as clearinghouses for exemplary instructional material and professional development tools.

In short, ATE centers ensure that technicians are prepared to be vital contributors in complex, modern workplaces. The centers accomplish this by creating partnerships among educators, industry and government. This report provides a clear picture of the value of such coordinated public and private collaborations.

The NSF recognizes the critical role that the ATE program plays in developing the nation's most valuable asset—its people. The ATE program will continue to prepare the world-class technicians needed to assure the countless technological advances expected during this era of limitless science and engineering discovery.

Sincerely,

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director