

**THE NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: THE FIRST FIVE YEARS
1989-1994;** J. Dasch, NASA Space Grant, Mail Code FEH, NASA Headquarters, 300 E. St. S.W., Washington, DC 20546 and E. Ward, NASA Space Grant, MS 221 NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681

NASA accepted the Congressional mandate to manage the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (NSGC&FP) and announced the original competition for Space Grant awards in 1989. Currently, 52 independently governed Space Grant consortia administer programs in three areas of university and NASA concern: research, education, and public service. NASA funds have remained stable at \$15 million since 1991, but the consortia have leveraged matching funds, including in-kind contributions, to approximately double the Space Grant awards. The number of affiliated Space Grant institutions has grown from 86 affiliates in 1990 to over 550 affiliates in 1996. Members include many of the finest colleges and universities in the nation, internationally competitive business and industrial partners, small businesses, state and local government agencies, private colleges, community colleges, medical colleges, and other nonprofit organizations. Though the program has been fully operational in all 52 consortia for less than five years, the benefits to the taxpayer have been significant.

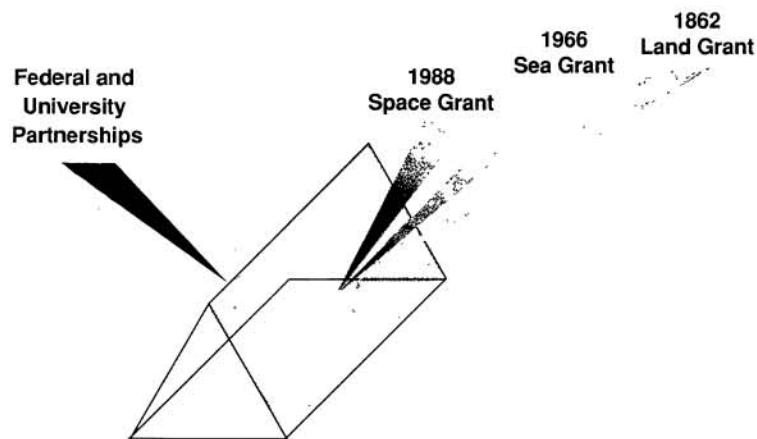
Research. For the four year period, 1991-1994, Space Grant faculty and students obtained funding for over 300 research proposals. The total dollars won with these proposals for the years 1993 and 1994 exceeded \$50 million. All of the NSGC&FP grant types emphasize research; however, the Capability Enhancement state consortia are charged with developing NASA-related state research infrastructure to competitive levels. These Capability Enhancement grants also have the option of providing a limited amount of funds for faculty research fellowships. Following the capability enhancement grant model, in 1994 NASA selected six states as participants in their Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program. Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana and Puerto Rico will implement additional programs and activities to support research infrastructure development. NASA anticipates adding several more states to the EPSCoR program in 1996.

Education. Since 1990, the NSGC&FP has served close to 6500 citizens by providing tuition assistance. Among these 6500 were significant numbers of students from underrepresented groups in science and engineering, including women, African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Pacific Islanders, and persons with disabilities. There is no matching funds requirement for NSGC&F program funds distributed for fellowships and scholarships; however, for the past three years, the consortia have supplemented these funds with nearly \$10 million. Over the same period, 1992-1994, the average Space Grant student award was \$5,321. Each state consortium determines how it will distribute the fellowship and scholarship funds. Some states choose to make awards to graduate students exclusively while other states choose to award only undergraduates; the majority of states give awards to both types of students. Awards are competitive and Space Grant students typically major in fields that bear relevance to NASA's broad mission. During the three year period, 1992-1994, consortia leveraged \$16.5 million for precollege activities and administered over 1300 precollege projects that promote NASA-related science education. Many of these projects targeted persons from underrepresented groups and contained mentoring or role modeling components. Space Grant precollege programs, serving both teachers and students, provide good examples of higher education faculty working well with local school systems.

Public Service. The Space Grant consortia and NASA agree that providing public service is a top priority. For the three year period, 1992-1994, the Space Grant consortia administered over 600 public service programs and leveraged approximately \$4.5 million. Space Grant funds provided science and technology lectures, demonstrations, science exhibits, space-related periodicals, audio and video productions of NASA-related subjects, and have helped to positively affect science literacy and NASA awareness in over one million people. Additional information about the NSGC&FP can be obtained through the Education Programs link on NASA's World Wide Web site. The NASA web address is: <http://www.nasa.gov>

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Landmark Legislation



Consortia Distribution by Grant Type

