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May 30, 2025
Suzanne H. Plimpton
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite E6400
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

FASEB comments Regarding Information Collection Request on National Science Foundation's Education and Training Application Pilot

Submitted electronically via email: splimpto@nsf.gov

Dear Ms. Plimpton,

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed renewal of the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) Education and Training Application Pilot (ETAP), published in the *Federal Register* on May 2. ETAP is a customizable, common application system designed to connect individuals—such as students and educators—with NSF-funded education and training opportunities. By gathering high-quality data from applicants and participants in NSF-funded programs, ETAP strengthens NSF's capacity to track its education and workforce initiatives and supports future impact evaluations. FASEB applauds NSF's efforts to increase awareness of this key resource and its initiatives to reduce the administrative burden on Principal Investigators (PIs) and applicants.

Echoing FASEB's prior comments in response to the proposed updates to NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), ETAP provides an important centralized resource to assist individuals interested in expanding their training in STEM fields by helping them identify and apply for NSF-funded professional development opportunities. Such resources are critical to ensuring the continued growth and retention of individuals pursuing STEM careers. In addition, FASEB encourages NSF to consider additional outreach strategies to increase awareness of ETAP among research institutions and scientific societies.

While FASEB appreciates the availability of ETAP to increase awareness of NSF-funded education and training and career opportunities, we are deeply concerned about the longer-term impacts of recent changes to NSF administration on the next generation of STEM researchers. NSF funding for new research grants has dropped to its lowest level since at least 1990 with a 51 percent decline this year and more than $1 billion below the 10-year average. The Directorate for STEM Education has experienced one of the steepest declines, with funding for new awards falling by about 80 percent. The abrupt termination of approximately 1,400 grants – many of which supported efforts to broaden participation in STEM careers – coupled with the elimination of program divisions and staff focused on training and career development threaten the U.S. STEM workforce and its global leadership in research, innovation, and economic growth. If

continued, these cuts will drive talent elsewhere and diminish the U.S.'s appeal to future students.

FASEB appreciates the opportunity to comment and looks forward to continued engagement with NSF on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Garvy, PhD
FASEB President