



# AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
*of* GEOGRAPHERS

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Gary Langham

March 1, 2024

Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan  
Director, National Science Foundation  
2415 Eisenhower Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. Panchanathan,

We are writing to convey the American Association of Geographers' strong and continuing support for the Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems (DISES) program at NSF.

DISES is the largest and most important source of funding for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary environmental research in the United States. In the past five years, more than 80 members of AAG and countless other geographers have received more than \$110M in funding through DISES for crucial cross-cutting research into the entwined challenges of assuring future environmental well-being, addressing public health, and protecting the energy security of our country. Because the most pressing challenges faced by the United States and the global community are inextricably natural and social, we need interdisciplinary environmental research to understand and address them.

DISES and its predecessors, CNH and CNH-2, have been invaluable in supporting socio-environmental research on vital topics including climate change mitigation and adaptation; environmental contamination and restoration; and the interconnections of our food, water and energy systems. Over the past two decades, these programs have also funded grants that trained a generation of natural and social scientists in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to the environment. The networks developed through these grants have been and will continue to be vital for answering scientific questions and providing crucial guidance for national, state and local environmental policy.

NSF's statutory mission is to "promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity and welfare; and to secure the national defense" (P.L. 81-507). In our view, continuing the DISES program or developing a comparable program to support interdisciplinary environmental research is central to each aspect of that mission.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lave, Ph.D.  
President, AAG

Gary Langham, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, AAG