



From the Inspector General

This report highlights the activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the six months ending March 31, 2005. I am extremely proud of the staff's efforts during this period. Our office issued 15 audit reports and reviews containing \$41,602,281 in questioned costs and made recommendations that would put \$620,020 in federal funds to better use. We closed 27 civil/criminal cases and 31 administrative cases, and our investigations produced \$230,568 in recoveries. In an era when government budgets are getting tighter, these savings represent a significant source of NSF funding for new research and improved post-award operations. More about OIG's accomplishments is included in our annual Performance Report on p. 39.

Last December, the Inspector General community issued *A Strategic Framework* which presented our collective mission, vision and goals for the next five years. It states that the federal Offices of Inspector General have two basic roles: 1) to identify and report on current problems and 2) to foster effective program management to prevent future problems. Consistent with these important responsibilities, this Semiannual continues to report on audits and investigations that reflect the significant management challenges we have identified at NSF, such as post-award administration, the strategic management of human capital, and the management of large infrastructure projects. I am confident that the agency will continue its efforts to address these challenges, and I look forward to providing whatever OIG assistance may be needed.

I would also like to offer a warm welcome to the new members of the National Science Board: Dr. Dan Arvizu, Dr. G. Wayne Clough, Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Dr. Louis Lanzerotti, Dr. Alan Leshner, Dr. Jon Strauss, and Dr. Kathryn Sullivan. It is a privilege to work with you and our returning Board members to continue the agency's impressive record of accomplishment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine C. Boesz".

Christine C. Boesz, Dr.P.H.
Inspector General
May 19, 2005

