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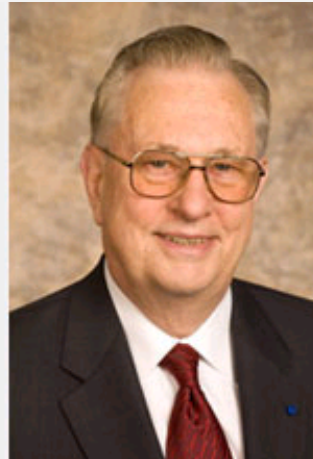
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Press Release 10-022

NSF Director to Lead New Purdue Global Institute



Arden L. Bement, Jr., was sworn in as the twelfth director of NSF on Nov. 24, 2004.
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February 4, 2010

ARLINGTON, VA - Arden L. Bement, the director of the National Science Foundation, has been named to lead Purdue University's new Global Policy Research Institute (GPRI) in West Lafayette, Ind. Bement will begin his new post as the director of GPRI--which will draw on seven different science and research disciplines at Purdue--on June 1 this year.

Bement was appointed to his six-year term as director by President George W. Bush in November 2004. He served as acting director for 10 months prior to this. Under Bement, NSF has seen its budget move onto a doubling path, created a series of new science and engineering initiatives around innovation themes, increased its role in the international scientific policy arena and increased its commitment to core basic research areas. NSF is widely recognized as a key driver of science and innovation advances in the U.S.

During Bement's tenure as NSF director, he oversaw the foundation's annual budget of more than \$7 billion that supports the research and education of roughly 200,000 scientists, engineers, educators and students across the United States. As part of the White House's American Competitiveness Initiative in 2006, he guided initiatives that supported the training of the U.S. work force to operate in a high-tech global economy.

"With the submission of his 2011 budget, President Obama has underscored again the critical role that the National Science Foundation plays in ensuring our Nation's continuing preeminence in science and technology," said John P. Holdren, assistant to the president for science and technology and director, Office of Science and Technology Policy. "I want to thank Dr. Bement for his nearly seven years of distinguished service at NSF's helm and his unwavering commitment to America's research and education enterprise."

From 1989 to 1995, Bement also served on the National Science Board, the 24-member policy body for NSF and adviser to the president and Congress on science and engineering issues.

"Arden Bement is a leader in the national and global science community," said Purdue president and National Science Board member France A. Córdoba. "He has a tremendous amount of experience in understanding, formulating and shaping policy on critical issues. Policy, whether it's related to economics, agriculture, poverty, climate change or energy sources, is built on research and science aimed at improving people's lives. A dedicated institute is another opportunity for Purdue to strengthen connections between science and society."

The institute's residence was a gift from alumni R. Thomas and Anne Schowe, who reside in Santa Barbara, Calif. R. Thomas earned his bachelor's degree in industrial education in 1971, and Anne earned her bachelor's degree in computer science in 1972.

Bement is a former Purdue nuclear engineering professor and department head and retained tenure at Purdue during his stints in senior science policy posts in Washington, D.C. While at Purdue, Bement was the David A. Ross Distinguished Professor of Nuclear Engineering and former head of Purdue's School of Nuclear Engineering. He also held appointments in the School of Materials Engineering and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He joined the Purdue faculty in 1992 after a 39-year career in industry, government and academia.

Bement holds an engineer of metallurgy degree from the Colorado School of Mines, a master's degree in metallurgical material engineering from the University of Idaho and a doctorate in metallurgical material engineering from the University of Michigan. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from Cleveland State University, Colorado School of Mines, and Case Western Reserve University, and is an honorary member of the graduate faculty of the Chinese Academy of Science. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2009, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, by the Emperor of Japan for contributions to international understanding through science and technology.

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The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. In fiscal year (FY) 2010, its budget is about \$6.9 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives over 45,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes over 11,500 new funding awards. NSF also awards over \$400 million in professional and service contracts yearly.

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