

THE LIFECYCLE OF A RESEARCH CAREER

Innovative discoveries, technological advancements, lifesaving treatments, and more all rely on a robust and sustained research workforce pipeline.

Whether a researcher chooses to enter academia, the private sector, or start their own company, funding for federal research agencies — which is decided by Congress on an annual basis — is key to attract, sustain, and maintain a research workforce that advances the boundaries of science while inspiring the next generation to follow in their footsteps. In fact, funding predictability is essential for future researchers to envision STEM as a viable career path.

But where do future scientists get started? The pathway to a career in STEM can begin as early as elementary school and continues to take shape through hands-on undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral experiences. Let's take a look at the many ways public-university partnerships play a role in advancing STEM careers and in turn support the more than [560,000-strong](#) research workforce.

