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**NEW YORK MOVES AHEAD IN KEY SCIENCE AREAS**  
**State Ranks No. 2 Overall in Science and Engineering Doctorates Granted**

Michael J. Relyea, Executive Director, New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR), announced today that New York State's ranking in awarded science and engineering doctorates in key academic areas has increased substantially.

"The strength and prestige of New York's science and engineering doctoral programs is a strong indicator of the high-technology opportunities that exist in New York," said Executive Director Relyea. "With the help of these new scientists and researchers in cutting edge disciplines, New York's future economic prosperity in the high-technology world will be ensured."

In 2005, New York State's public and private doctorate granting academic research institutions awarded 2,419 science and engineering doctorates, second highest in the nation behind California, and up 4 percent from 2,326 in 2004, according to a soon-to-be-released study by the National Science Foundation. By comparison, California's total science and engineering degrees increased by 3 percent.

The Empire State significantly outpaced third place Texas in science and engineering doctorate degrees. While New York easily maintained its overall No. 2 rank, it also increased its ranking in the total number of engineering doctorates, as well as in awarded chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, and earth and atmospheric doctorates.

New York ranks second in doctoral degrees issued in the physical sciences, physics and astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, computer science and biology with 512 graduates. In 2005, 27,974 science and engineering doctoral degrees were issued in the U.S.

New York's prestigious world-class universities such as Columbia University, Cornell University, City University of New York, New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Stony Brook, Syracuse University, and the University of Rochester, continue to produce some of the world's best and brightest scientists.

New York State's strong scientific academic ranking provides strong confirmation for the State's innovative and unprecedented efforts to create a comprehensive and long-term plan to foster the growth of high-tech and biotech research across the State.

NYSTAR has several programs designed to assist and promote the research of faculty and early career researchers.

Recently, NYSTAR announced \$1.4 million in awards as part of its James D. Watson Investigator initiative to recognize and support seven outstanding scientists and engineers who, early in their careers, show potential for leadership and scientific discovery in the field of biotechnology.

In addition, NYSTAR awarded more than \$5.97 million in NYSTAR faculty development grants to Columbia University, New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Stony Brook University, the University at Buffalo and the University of Rochester. These schools received NYSTAR grants ranging from \$336,700 to \$750,000. In addition, the universities will contribute \$6.77 million in total funding for these senior researchers.

The highly competitive and much sought after faculty and early career awards helps New York continue to build a solid foundation for a high-tech economy and allows its colleges and universities to attract and

retain the best and brightest scientists to our world-class academic research institutions. These awards have helped move the State to the forefront as a high-tech job creation leader and were made as part of a comprehensive and coordinated effort to create a stronger, vibrant economy in New York.

These initiatives support NYSTAR's other programs to spur technology-based research and economic development in New York State, promote national and international research collaboration and innovation, better leverage the State's research expertise and funding for investments from the federal government, foundations, businesses, and help researchers acquire venture capital funding.