

**Dr. Arden Bement, Director  
National Science Foundation  
Nanotechnology: The Power of Small  
Wilson Center, Washington DC  
April 2, 2008**

**I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to bring the new TV series, Nanotechnology: The Power of Small” to fruition, including Oregon Public Broadcasting who will air the series.**

**The statesmanship of Senator Ron Wyden, co-chair of the Nanotechnology Caucus, whose leadership has advanced the commercialization of nano while guarding the public’s safety at every turn, has been crucial. A delicate balance, I must say.**

**More than a decade ago, chatter about nano research began to bubble up from the university research community. The National Science Foundation is often the first to hear news of a new field taking form. We were right there at conception with workshops and funding. Today we recognize nano science and engineering as a transformative research field with the potential to redesign whole societies, perhaps even civilizations. In everything from medicine to manufacturing, from**

**sports to space travel, we are witnessing the utilization of nano practices and properties.**

**In addition to being smart and resourceful in generating new knowledge and designing innovative applications, we here this evening recognize that this is only part of the task. We must then look beyond the know-how to ask how it can be safely used and where it may cause harm. This often runs against the push of discovery to marketplace promotion. There are enough harmful examples from the past that should make us careful and thorough.**

**I want to congratulate Dave Rejeski and Julia Moore, Director and Deputy Director of the Project for Emerging Nanotechnologies on their wisdom and healthy questioning in this regard. Their watchful efforts have brought to light the many questions that could have been swept away with the excitement of a new field and its potential. We are grateful to them.**

**On the NSF side “The Power of Small” was shepherded by Hyman Field, who was then head of the Division of Informal Science. He is here tonight to be honored and thanked.**

**Tonight is a window on a bright and safe future. My congratulations to all of you on a job well done.**