



**Recommendations to NSF
CAREER PIs**

**NSF Division of
Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences**

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Useful Resources

- **NSF Organization Chart:**
<http://nsf.gov/staff/orgchart.jsp>
Click on any box to drill down
- **NSF Organization List:**
<http://nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp>
Shows structure within each of the Directorates and Offices, plus PO names and contact information
- **Suggestions for NSF/GEO Early Career PIs**
http://www.nsf.gov/geo/adgeo/geoedu/nsf-geo_early_career_feb_10.doc

**Faculty Early Career Development
Program (CAREER)**

- Submit to a disciplinary program (08-557)
- Reviewed according to the relevant Program guidelines - Talk to Program Officer or Division Contact
- Make sure to check on typical award sizes in your program
- Ask about expectations for scope of research and education plans
- Assessment of Departmental endorsement letter is part of the review criteria for CAREER
- Funding rates follows trend for regular proposals in the program of interest

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503214
<http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp>

**Faculty Early Career Development
(CAREER)**

- **Compelling research plan**
- **Innovative but do-able education plan, with some sort of evaluative component**
- **Integration of education and research within the context of their organization's mission**

Education activities – curriculum, pedagogy, outreach, mentoring at any level, majors and non-majors, teacher preparation or enhancement, K-12 students, and/or the general public.

Attributes of Successful CAREER Education Plans

- Succinct, focused, detailed education plan
- Relevant education literature is cited
 - Geoscience Education and Diversity website has good resources, as does the CAREER solicitation.
- Clarity concerning how this education work will advance PIs professional goals
- Well-articulated evaluation plan

- Letters of support/collaboration are vital when partnering with existing programs. The letters should be detailed regarding the roles of the PI and program support personnel that are going to carry out the various aspects of the project. If resources are required, either the proposal budget or the letter of support should indicate how this aspect of the program will be funded.

Words of Wisdom

- **Talk to your Program Director(s)**-ask early, ask often AGU or GSA booth, email, phone, visit NSF, meetings
- **Read the solicitation carefully before you begin your proposal.** Ask a Program Officer for clarifications if needed
- **Explicitly** address Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts in both the Project Summary **and** Project Description.
- Utilize local resources; collaborate with education colleagues within your institution
- Provide a timeline for activities

Words of Wisdom

- Match and **justify the budget** to the scope of the proposed work - ask for what you need!
- Be familiar with projects that have succeeded - Award Abstracts at <http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch>
- Partner with education experts and evaluators on your campus; an external evaluator is not required
- Consult with outside specialists about budget for resources, payments to teachers, other specialists, participant stipends, etc.
- If working with k-12, consult teachers or those working with teachers regarding stipends, substitute pay, state education standards

Words of Wisdom

- **Sign up for NSF Updates by e-mail.** Click on the green "Get updates by e-mail" box in upper right corner of <http://nsf.gov>
- **Learn** how NSF is organized. <http://nsf.gov/staff/orgchart.jsp> Click on any box to drill for information
- **Identify** the relevant programs and program officers. <http://nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp> This resource is particularly useful after you understand NSF's organizational structure.
- **Follow** the NSF Grant Proposal Guide when preparing proposals: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg

Words of Wisdom

- Volunteer to serve as a proposal reviewer; send a short e-mail with your contact information including a webpage if you have one; attach a copy of your BioSketch and/or CV
- If you have an idea for a proposal and want to contact your program officer, do your homework first:
 - Read solicitation carefully before calling.
 - Send an e-mail before calling. E-mail should include your question/reason for calling. If question concerns a proposal provide a brief summary (no more than 1 page; shorter is better).