



NSF CAREER PROGRAM



**Prepared by
C. Susan Weiler
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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 Collaboration

- Letters of support/collaboration are vital when partnering with existing programs.
- 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
- **Talk with Program Officer about your proposal.** 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).