

# Welcome to NSF Day!

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018



# NSF TRANSFORMS OUR FUTURE

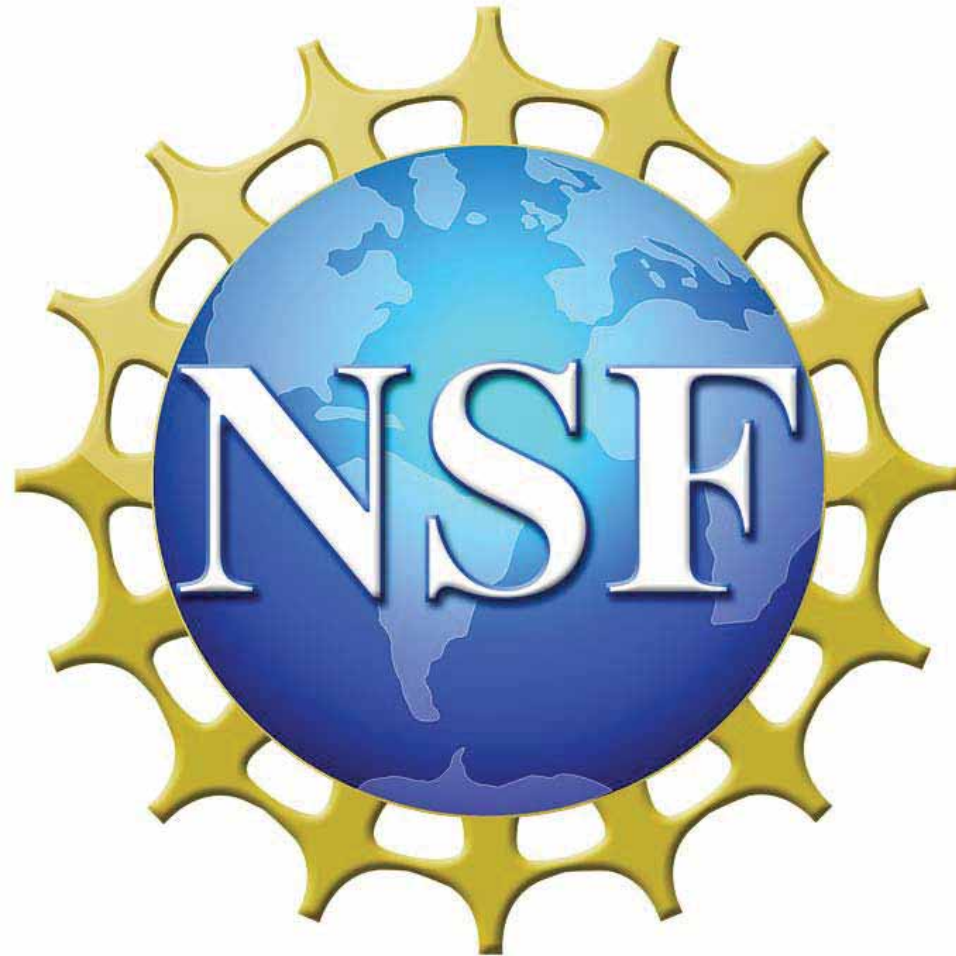


# Welcome to NSF Day!

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018



# A Message from Tennessee State University





# A Video Message from Senator Lamar Alexander



# A Video Message from Governor Bill Haslam



# A Message from Tennessee General Assembly Member Harold Love



# NSF Mission

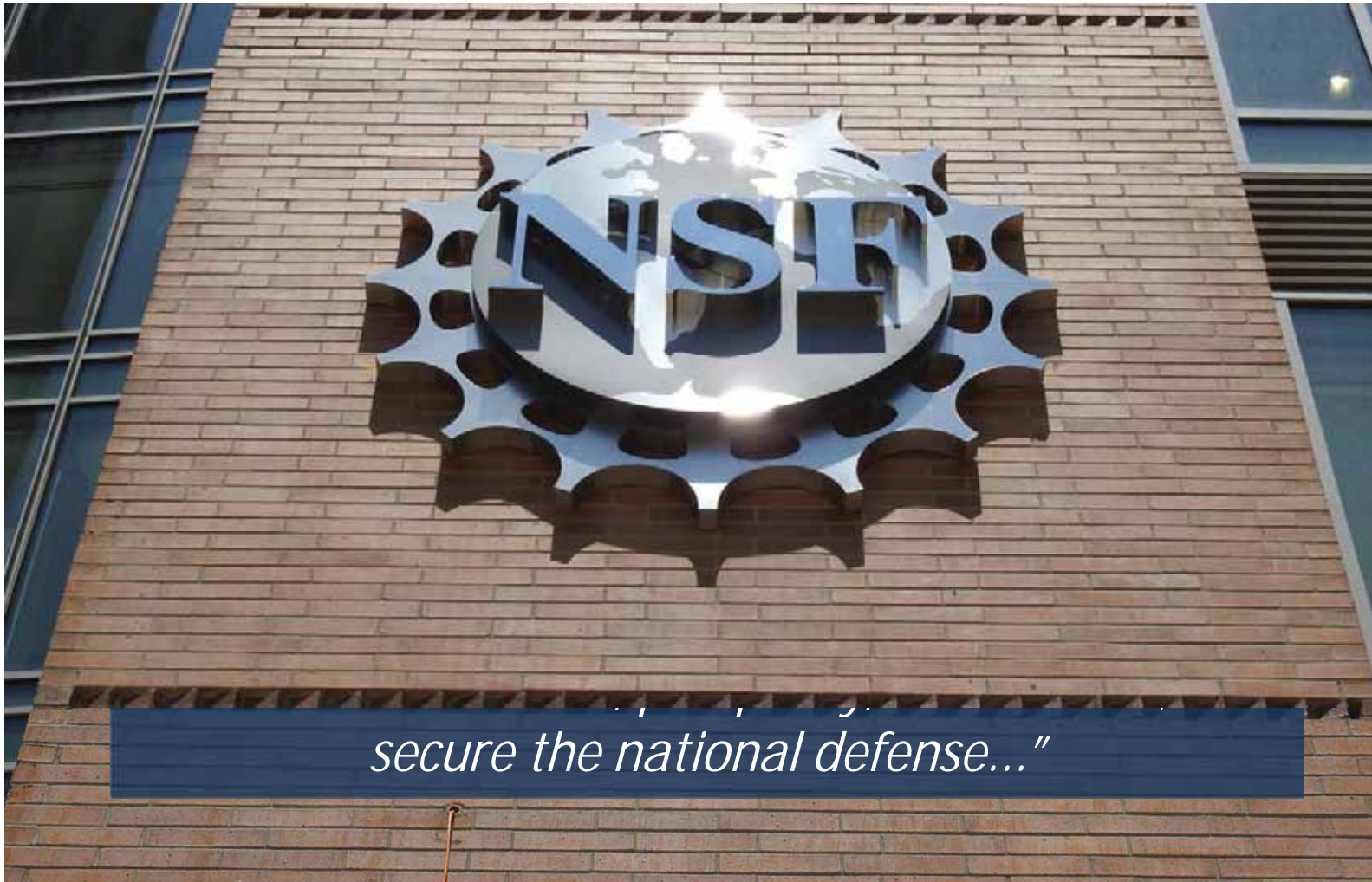
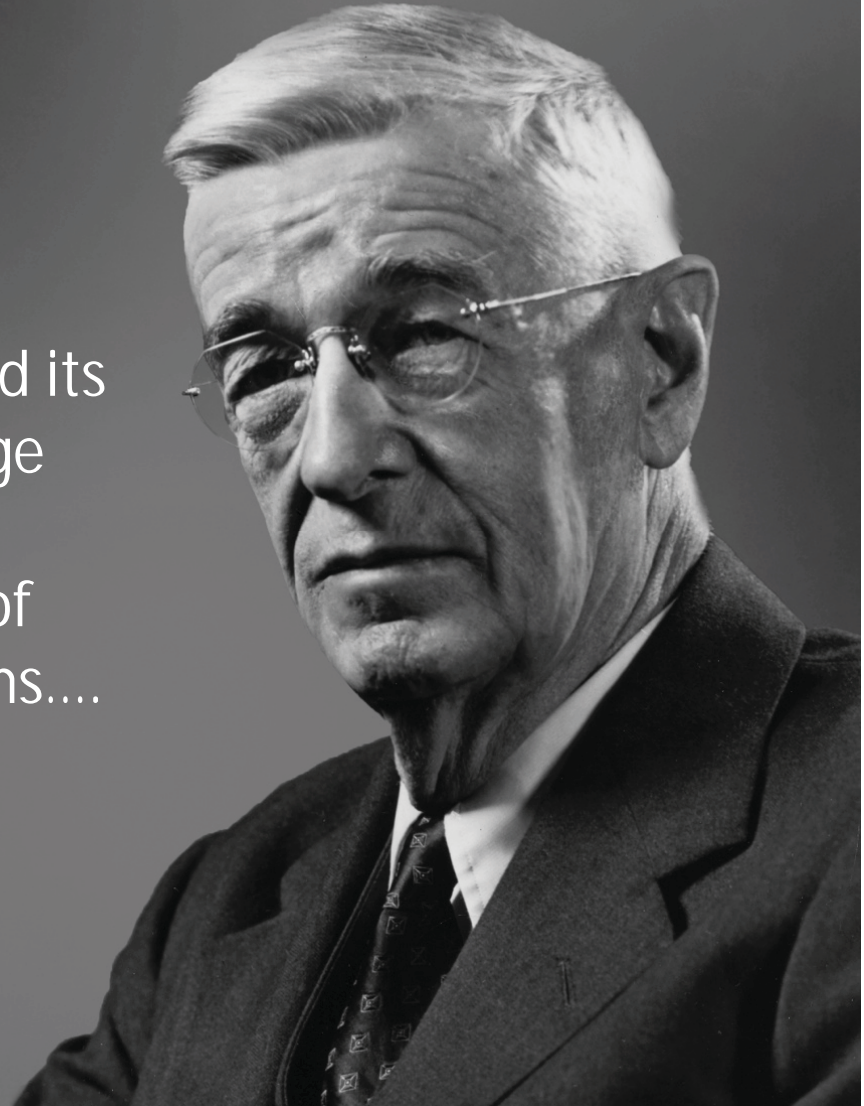


Photo Credit: Maria Barnes, NSF



Basic research ... results in general knowledge and an understanding of nature and its laws. This general knowledge provides the means of answering a large number of important practical problems....

- Vannevar Bush





# What Makes NSF Unique

Funds broad fundamental research -- longer lead time for identifying results

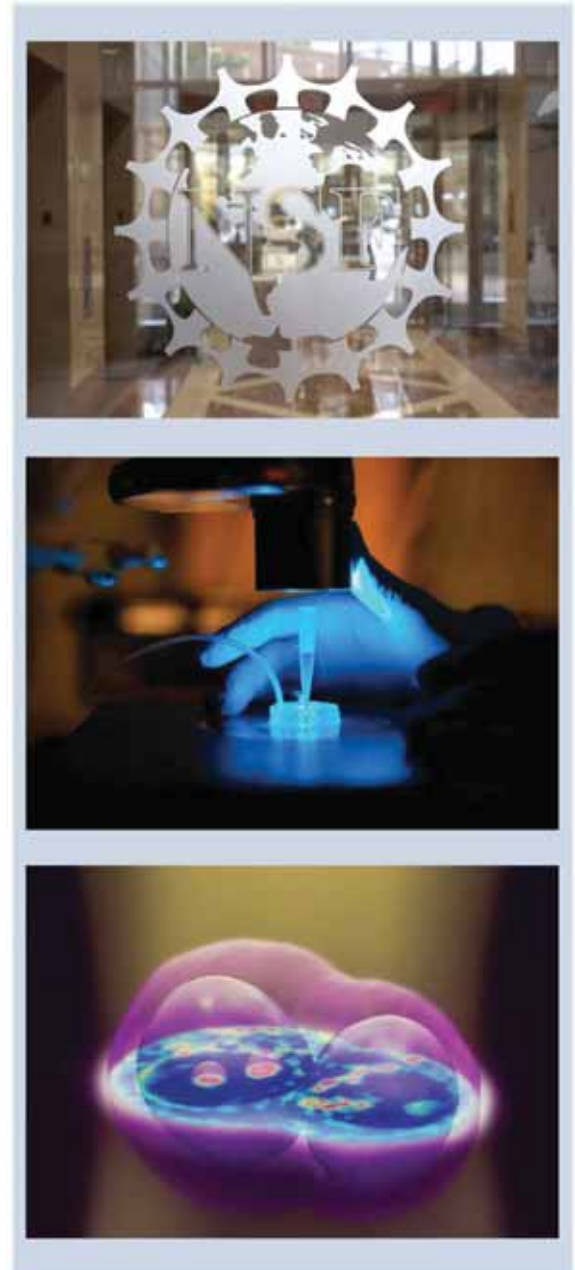
Drives U.S. economy

Enhances American security

Advances knowledge

to sustain U.S. global leadership.

Distributes 93% of its budget through the merit review process



# Characteristics of NSF

## Ubiquity

S&E advances are permeating the way we work, communicate, learn, and discover.

## Urgency

Rapidly evolving and accelerating the pace of discovery and innovation, with profound societal and economic impact.

## Engagement

The key strength and asset of NSF is the scientific community and the general public and their engagement.



# NSF by the Numbers



*Other than the FY 2017 enacted, numbers shown are based on FY 2016 activities.*





National Science Foundation

## FY 2018 BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS



**\$6.65B**  
request will  
fund  
fundamental  
research and  
education  
in all fields of  
science and  
engineering





# NSF Funds All Fields of S&E



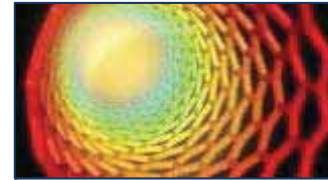
Biological  
Sciences



Computer &  
Information  
Science &  
Engineering



Education &  
Human  
Resources



Engineering



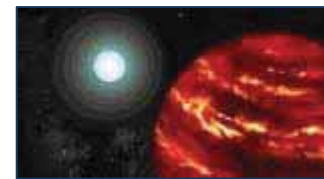
Integrative  
Activities



International  
Science and  
Engineering



Social,  
Behavioral &  
Economic  
Sciences



Mathematical  
& Physical  
Sciences

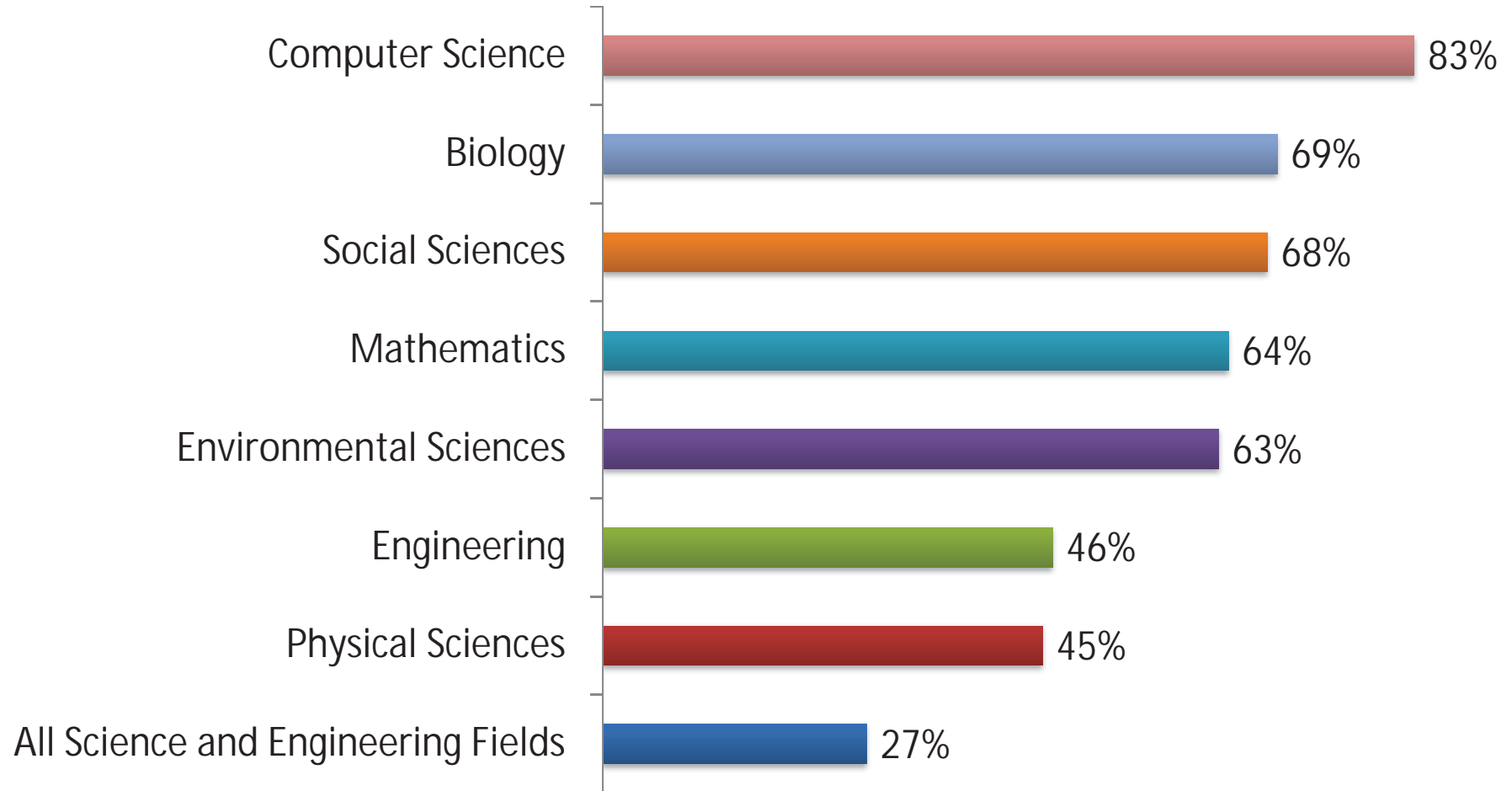


Geosciences  
(including Polar  
Programs)





# NSF Support of Academic Basic Research in Selected Fields (as a percentage of total federal support)



# Continued Investment in NSF Research Infrastructure



# Partnerships are Critical



# Outreach to the General Public

**Discover** SCIENCE FOR THE CURIOUS  
Revealing the Invisible Universe  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Search DiscoverMagazine.com **SEARCH**

CURRENT ISSUE **Discover**  
DIGITAL EDITIONS  
RENEW | GIVE A GIFT  
BACK ISSUES  
DIGITAL PRODUCTS  
CUSTOMER SERVICE

Radio astronomy reveals celestial wonders hidden from the human eye.



1 of 10

### What Lies Beyond?

Though many cosmic phenomena are visible to us, much of the universe is hidden from view, obscured by gas and dust. After the serendipitous discovery of radio waves coming from the Milky Way's center in the 1930s, scientists realized radio waves, which have a longer wavelength than visible light, could reveal many aspects of cosmic phenomena not visible in other wavelengths.

For more than 60 years, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has invested in state-of-the-art facilities to advance the field of radio astronomy, starting with the nation's first astronomical observatory—the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO). Today, NSF supports radio telescopes from West Virginia to the Chilean Andes.

The following images offer a virtual tour of some of those telescopes and their discoveries.

**Pictured:** The Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array in New Mexico.



[FULL SCREEN](#) Andrew Clegg, NSF  National Science Foundation

Monthly photo galleries show off NSF-funded science






# High Profile Events






# NSF's Challenges and Competitions


Enter a National Science Foundation Competition!  
*What's on deck for 2017-2018?*



**GEN NANO**  
A Science + Superheroes Competition for Middle and High School Students



**COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
INNOVATION CHALLENGE**  
A STEM Innovation + Entrepreneurism  
Competition for 2-year College Students



**Vizzies**  
A Science Visualization Challenge for Anyone at Least 18-years-old



# Robust Social Media

Facebook



+431K followers

Twitter



+1.08M  
followers

Instagram



+6,630  
followers

YouTube



+8.5M views

Pinterest



+31K views

LinkedIn



+53K  
followers

Flickr



+607K views

Tumblr



+25K  
followers

Medium



+29K views  
+42K followers

Usage metrics since inception,  
current as of December 2017

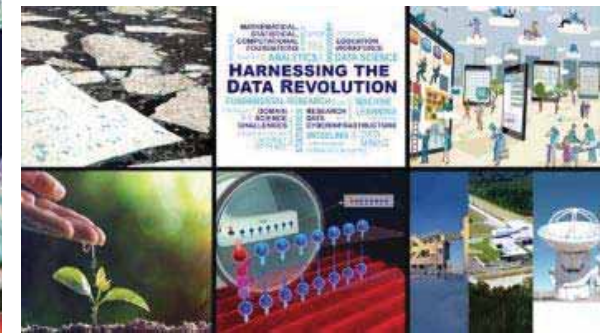
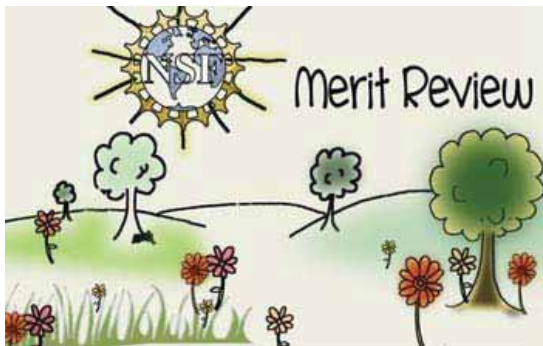
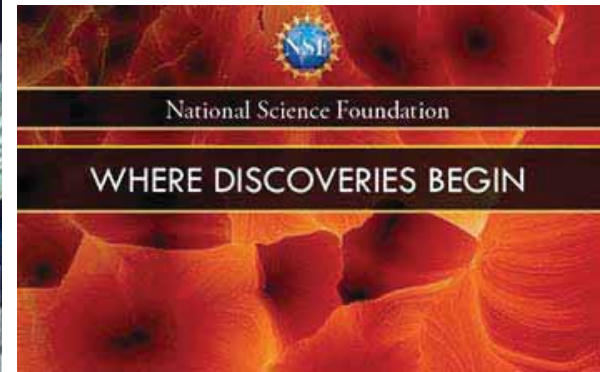
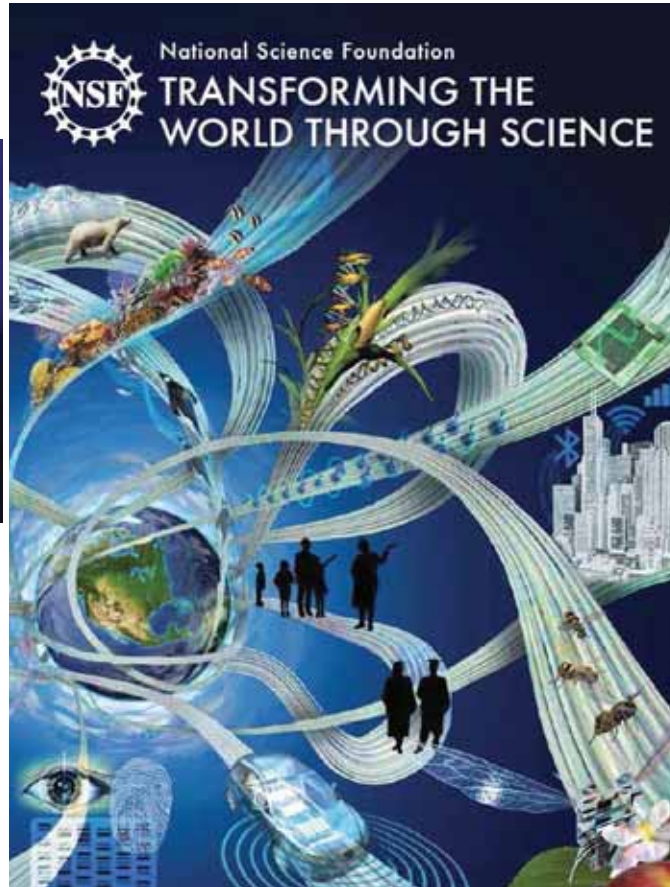
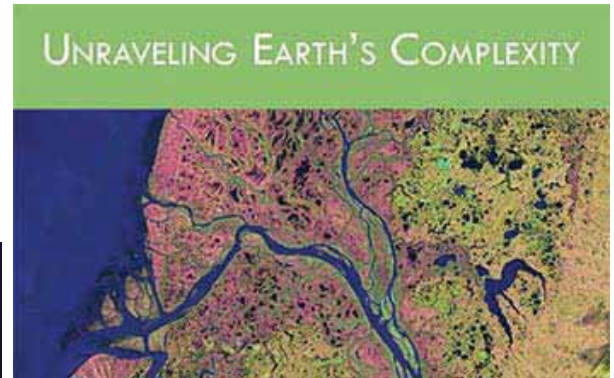
[www.nsf.gov/social](http://www.nsf.gov/social)







# NSF Toolkit



<https://nsf.gov/about/congress/toolkit.jsp>



# NSF's Organization





# NSF Directorates and Offices Biological Sciences (BIO)





# Biological Sciences (BIO)

**John Schade**

Division of Environmental Biology (DEB)

[jschade@nsf.gov](mailto:jschade@nsf.gov)



Program Director in Ecosystem Studies and the Long Term Ecological Research Program.

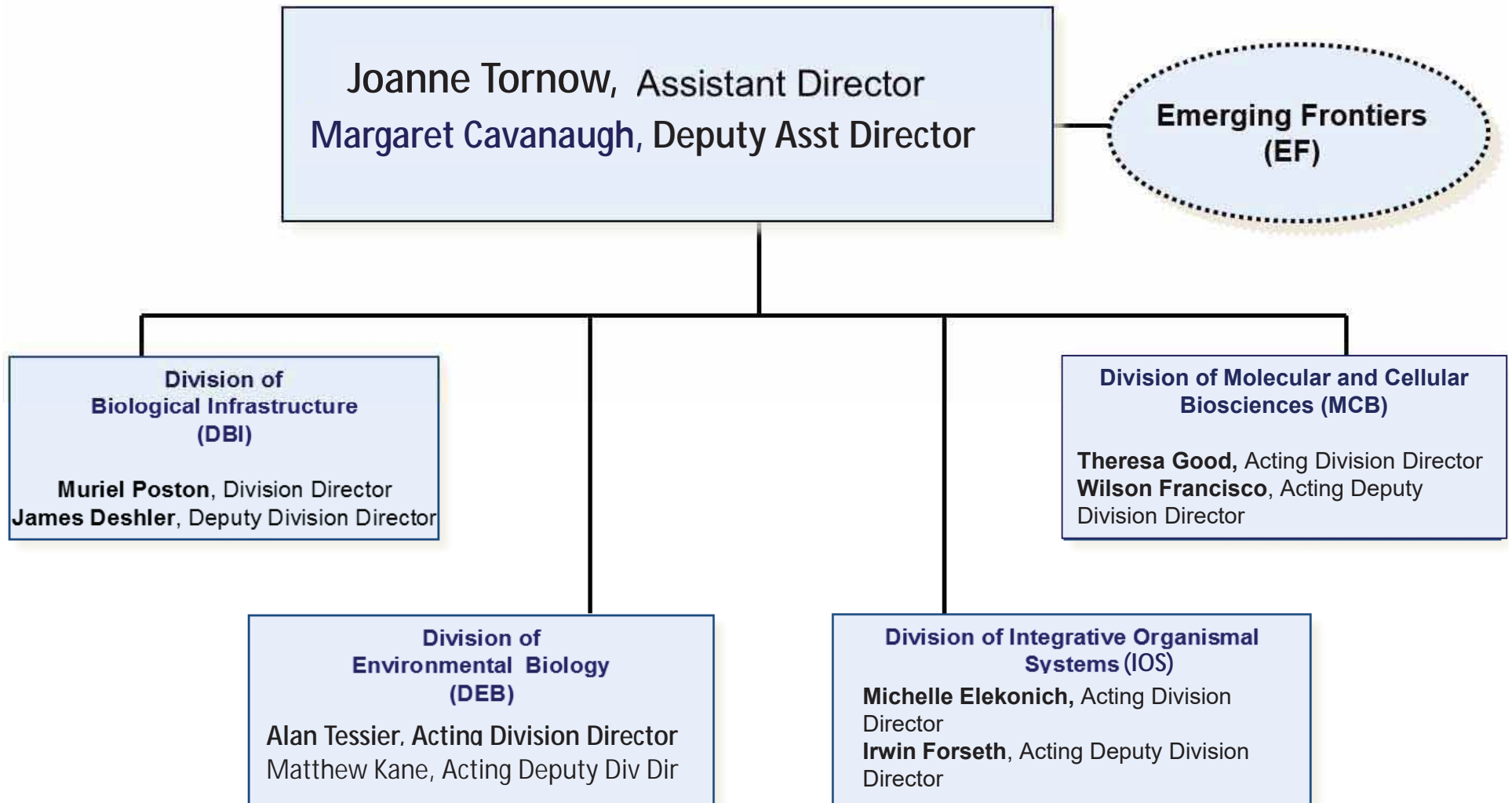
Aquatic and Terrestrial Biogeochemistry in Arctic and Agricultural ecosystems.

Integrating research and undergraduate training through immersive Arctic field experiences.

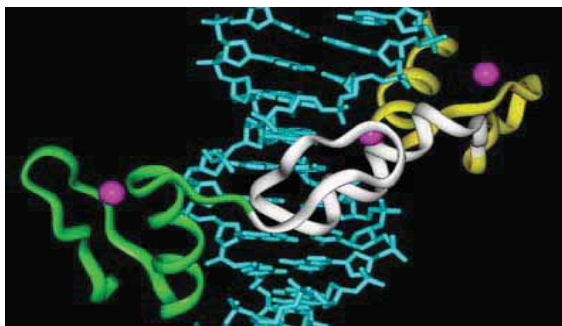
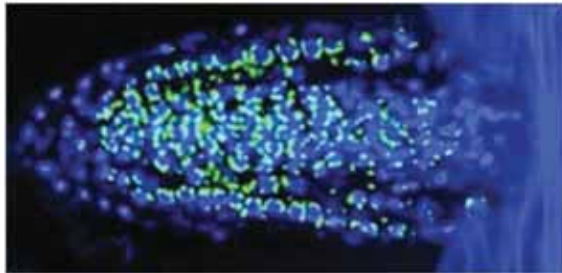
Strong interest in photography, both as hobby and for communicating stories of scientists.



# Biological Sciences (BIO)



# Biological Sciences (BIO)



## PRIORITIES

- Investigator-driven projects in all areas of biological research
- Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN)
- Macrosystems Biology
- Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP)
- New: Enabling Discovery through Genomic Tools (EDGE)
- New: Understanding the Rules of Life, Predicting Phenotype
- New: U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) Collaborative Proposals



# NSF Directorates and Offices

## Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)





# Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)

**Ann Von Lehmen**

Computer and Network Systems (CNS)

[avonlehmen@nsf.gov](mailto:avonlehmen@nsf.gov)



PD for joint program with NICT in Japan on trustworthy networks

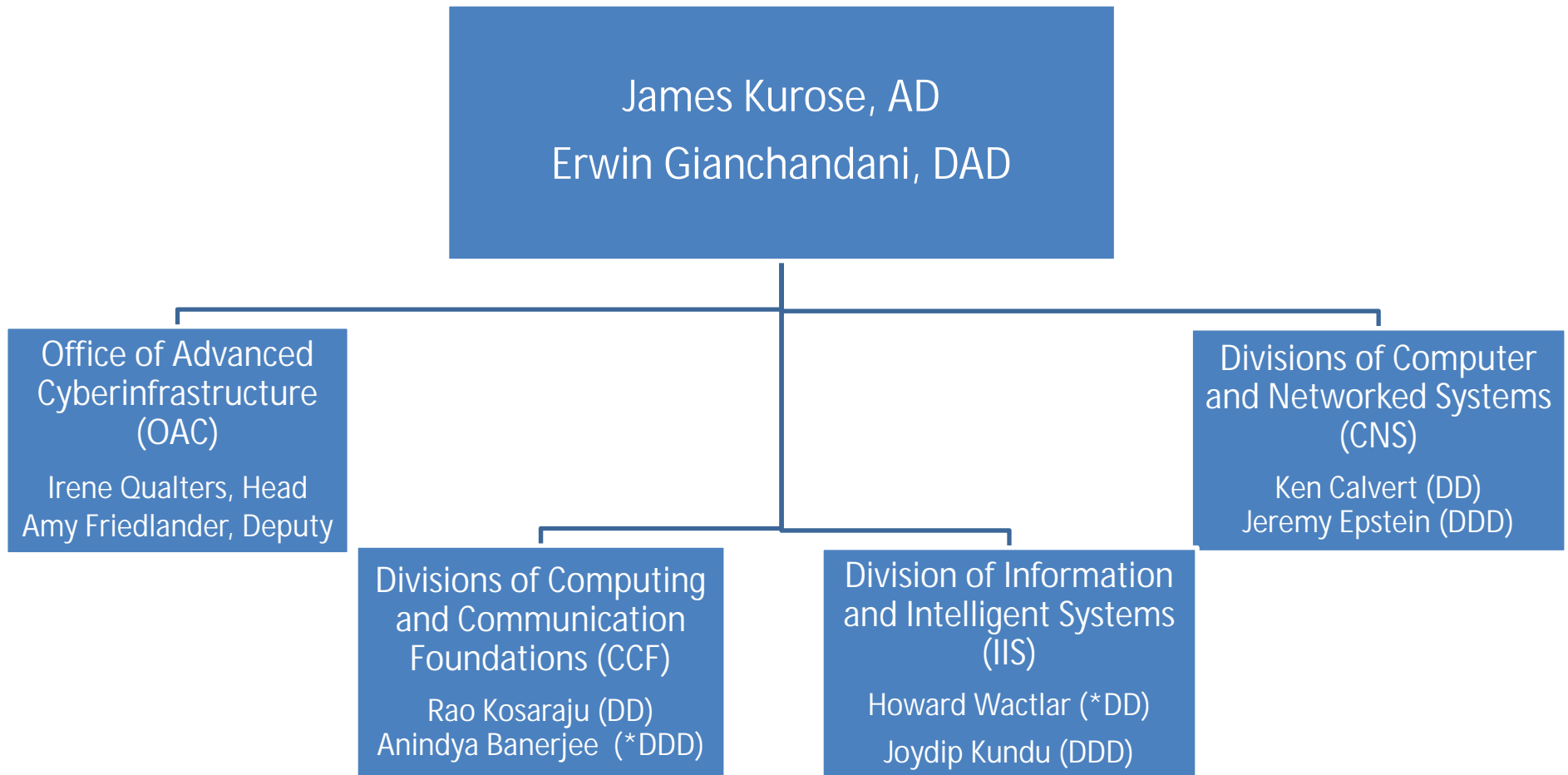
Cognizant PD for Program for Innovation (PFI program), with technology transition focus

Background in Telecommunications industry

Involved in tech transfer and spinout activities in industry



# Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)



\* Acting



# Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)



## PRIORITIES

- Core research programs across computer science (CS)
- Cross-directorate and cross-NSF programs (e.g., BRAIN, Cyberlearning, Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace, Cyber-Physical Systems, Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation, BIG DATA, Smart and Connected Health/Communities)
- CS education – STEM+C
- Building cyber infrastructure for science and engineering



# NSF Directorates and Offices Education & Human Resources (EHR)





# Education & Human Resources (EHR)

**Sandra Richardson**

Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE)

[srichard@ncsl.gov](mailto:srichard@ncsl.gov)



Works with DUE and cross-division programs in EHR and current Program Lead for Noyce Program in Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE)

Mathematics educator passionate about improving undergraduate STEM education

Former high school teacher and university professor

Enjoys boxing and serving the community

# Education & Human Resources (EHR)



# EHR Investment Priorities

## STEM Learning and Learning Environments

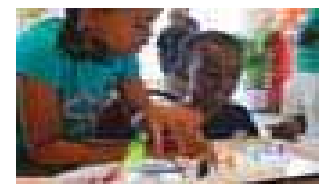
- Build on cognitive and “non-cognitive” foundations in STEM
- Support research and the development of innovative tools, approaches and practices in formal and informal STEM learning contexts

## Broadening Participation and Institutional Capacity in STEM

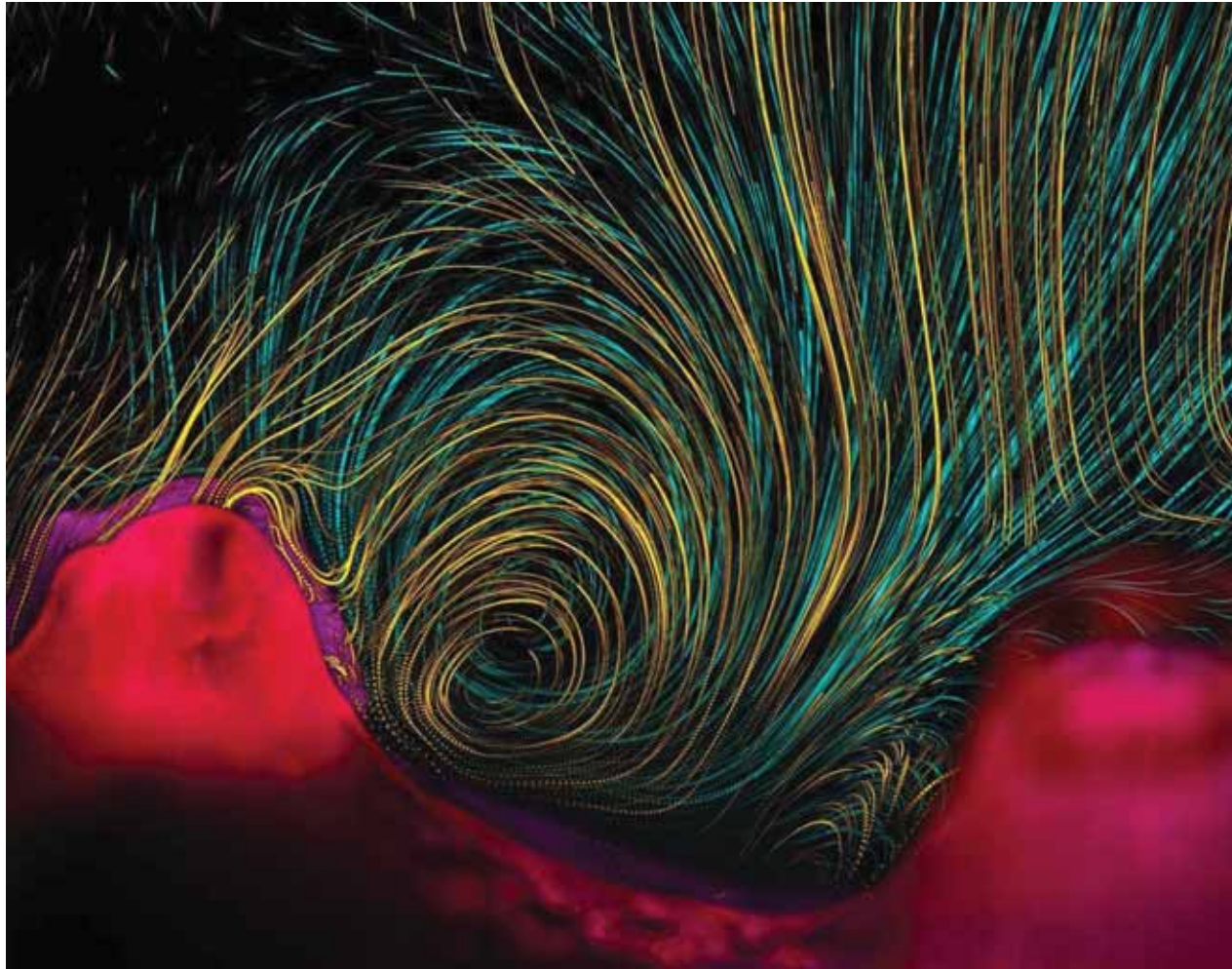
- Promote accessibility, supports and success for underrepresented groups through high-quality STEM education

## STEM Workforce

- Build capacity and prepare a diverse STEM workforce
- Capitalize on novel advances in science and technology
- Address emerging global, social, and economic challenges and opportunities



# NSF Directorates and Offices Engineering (ENG)





# Engineering (ENG)

**Barry Johnson**

Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)

[bwjohnso@nsf.gov](mailto:bwjohnso@nsf.gov)



Division Director, Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)

IIP is home to several crosscutting NSF programs:

- Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) Program
- Industry University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC) Program
- Innovation Corps (I-Corps™) Program
- Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program
- Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program

Passionate about industry-university partnerships which are vital to our nation's innovation ecosystem



# Engineering (ENG)

**Christina Payne**

Engineering Education Centers (EEC) Program

[cpayne@nsf.gov](mailto:cpayne@nsf.gov)



Associate Program Director, Engineering Biology and Health:

- Biophotonics
- Cellular and Biochemical Engineering
- Disability and Rehabilitation Engineering
- Engineering of Biomedical Systems
- Nano-Biosensing

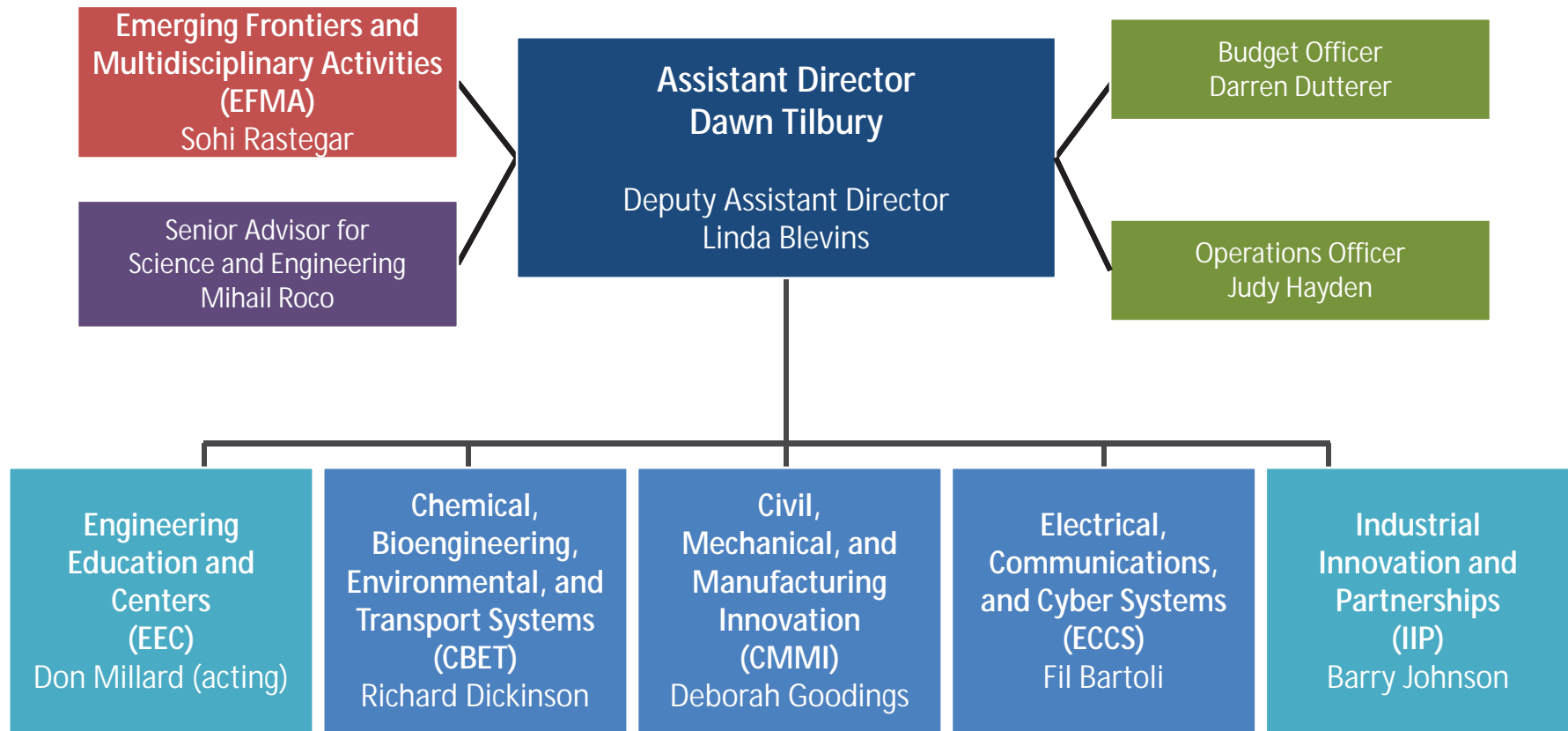
Previously faculty at University of Kentucky (currently Adjunct Associate Professor Chemical and Materials Engineering)

Research expertise in computational biophysics, enzymology, carbohydrates, and high-performance computing

Tennessee native; TN Tech (BS 2002) and Vanderbilt (PhD 2007) alumna



# Engineering (ENG)



# ENG Initiatives and Priorities

## Address National Interests

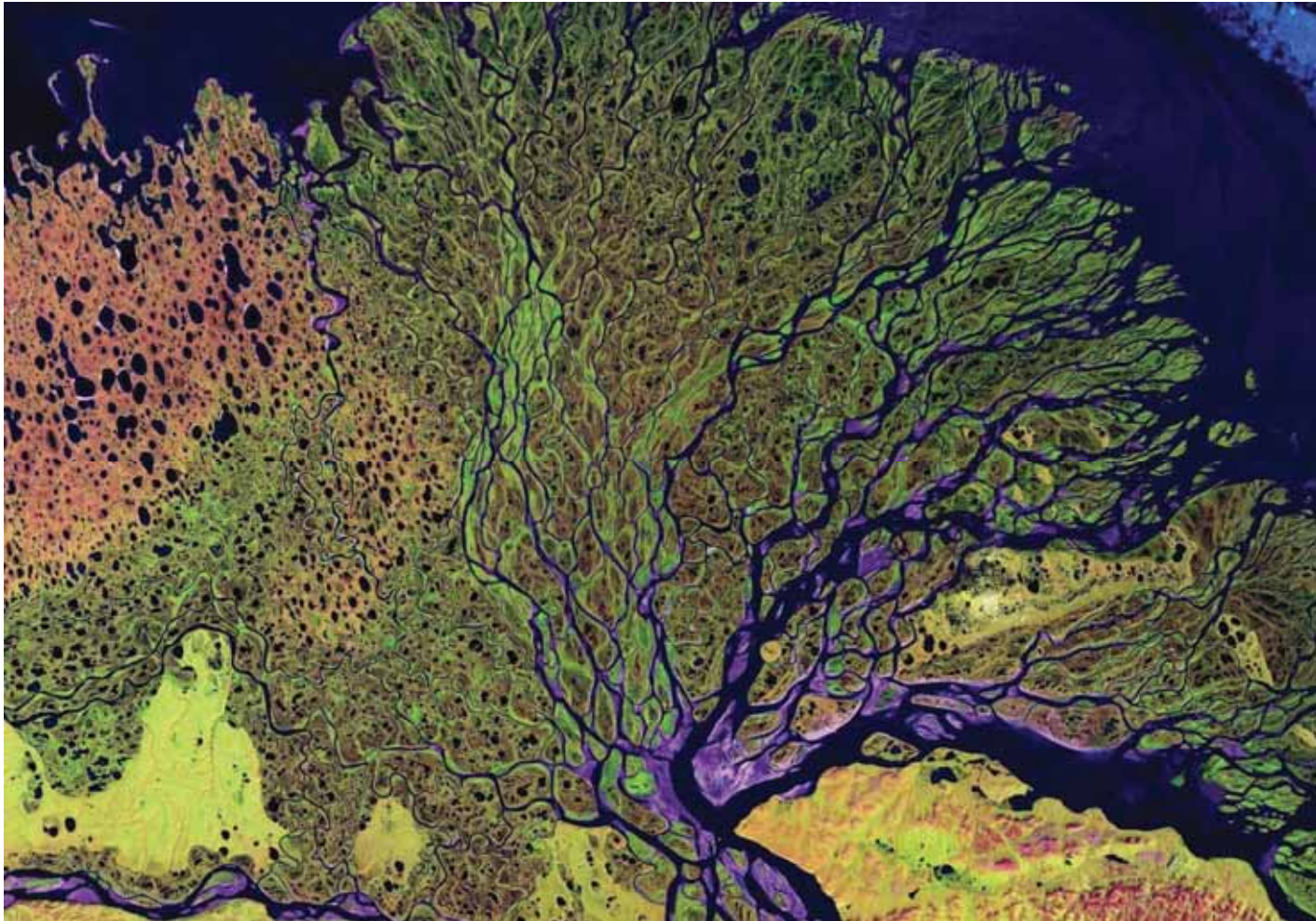
- INFEWS
- Risk and Resilience – Resilient Infrastructure Systems
  - Urban Science
  - Smart and Connected Communities
- Clean Energy Technology
- Cyber-Enabled Materials, Manufacturing, and Smart Systems
  - Advanced Manufacturing
- Communications & Cyberinfrastructure
- Optics and Photonics
- Robotics; Cyberphysical Systems
- Education and Broadening Participation
  - NSF INCLUDES
  - RED
- Understanding the Brain
- NNI
- ERCs
- ICORPS
- GOALI
- IUCRC
- PFI
- SBIR/STTR





# NSF Directorates and Offices

## Geosciences



# Geosciences (GEO)

**Chris Fritsen**

Office of Polar Programs (OPP)

[cfritsen@nsf.gov](mailto:cfritsen@nsf.gov)



Program officer for Antarctic Organisms and Ecosystems (GEO/OPP)

Discipline Specialties

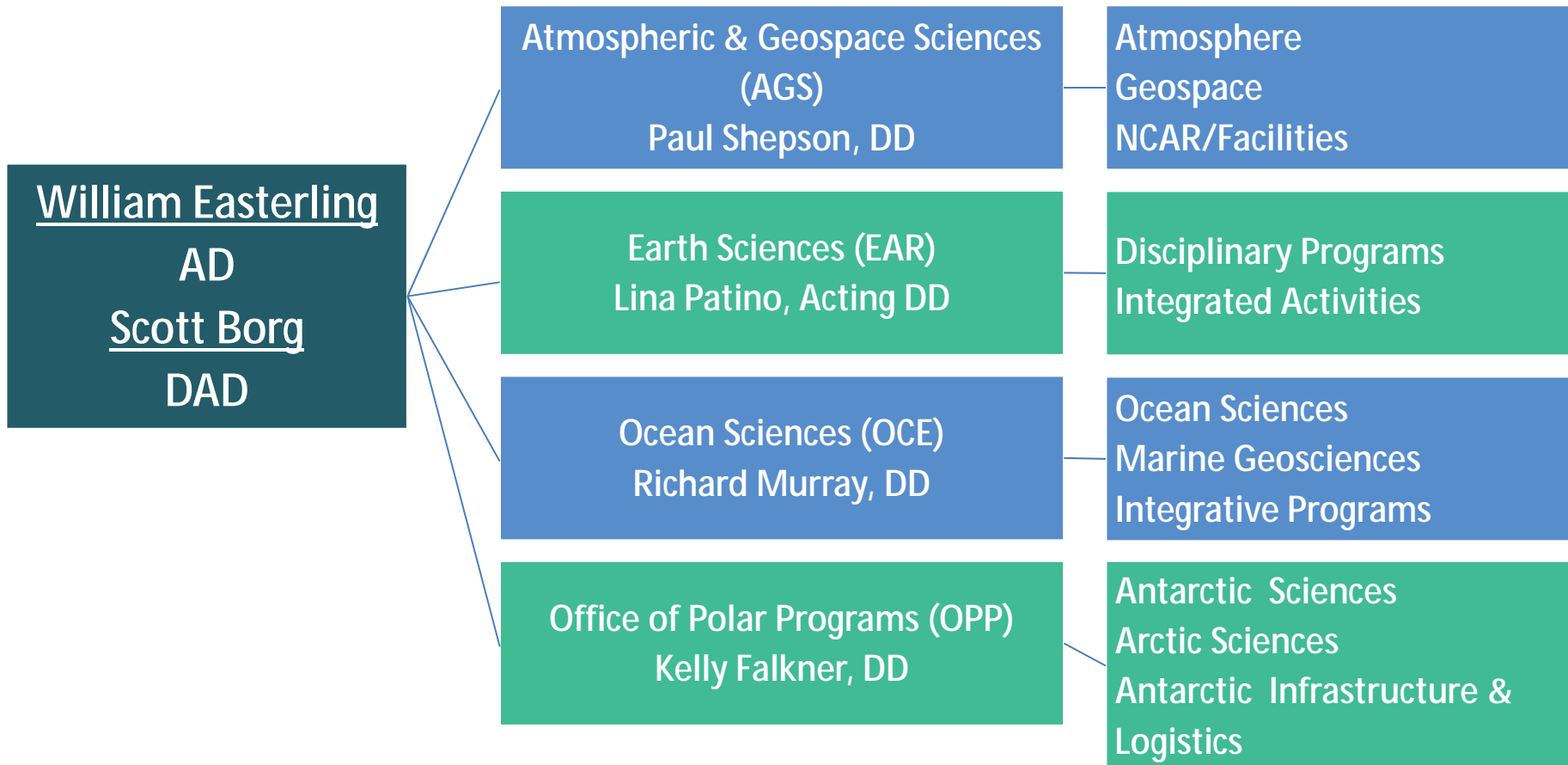
Algal Ecology, Sea Ice Geophysics, Hydrological Optics, Systems Ecology

Has Been to Antarctica 18 times

First trip was with Russians camping on floating sea ice where Shackleton's boat, the Endurance- sank!



# Geosciences (GEO)





# Geosciences (GEO)

## Directorate Priorities:

Support basic research in the Earth, oceans, atmospheric and spaces sciences, from pole to equator, core to space

Support research facilities and infrastructure (instrument pools, research vessels, NCAR, US Antarctic Program, and more)

Promote education and diversity in the geosciences

PREEVENTS: Prediction of and Resilience against Extreme EVENTS

Research interest in coastal processes

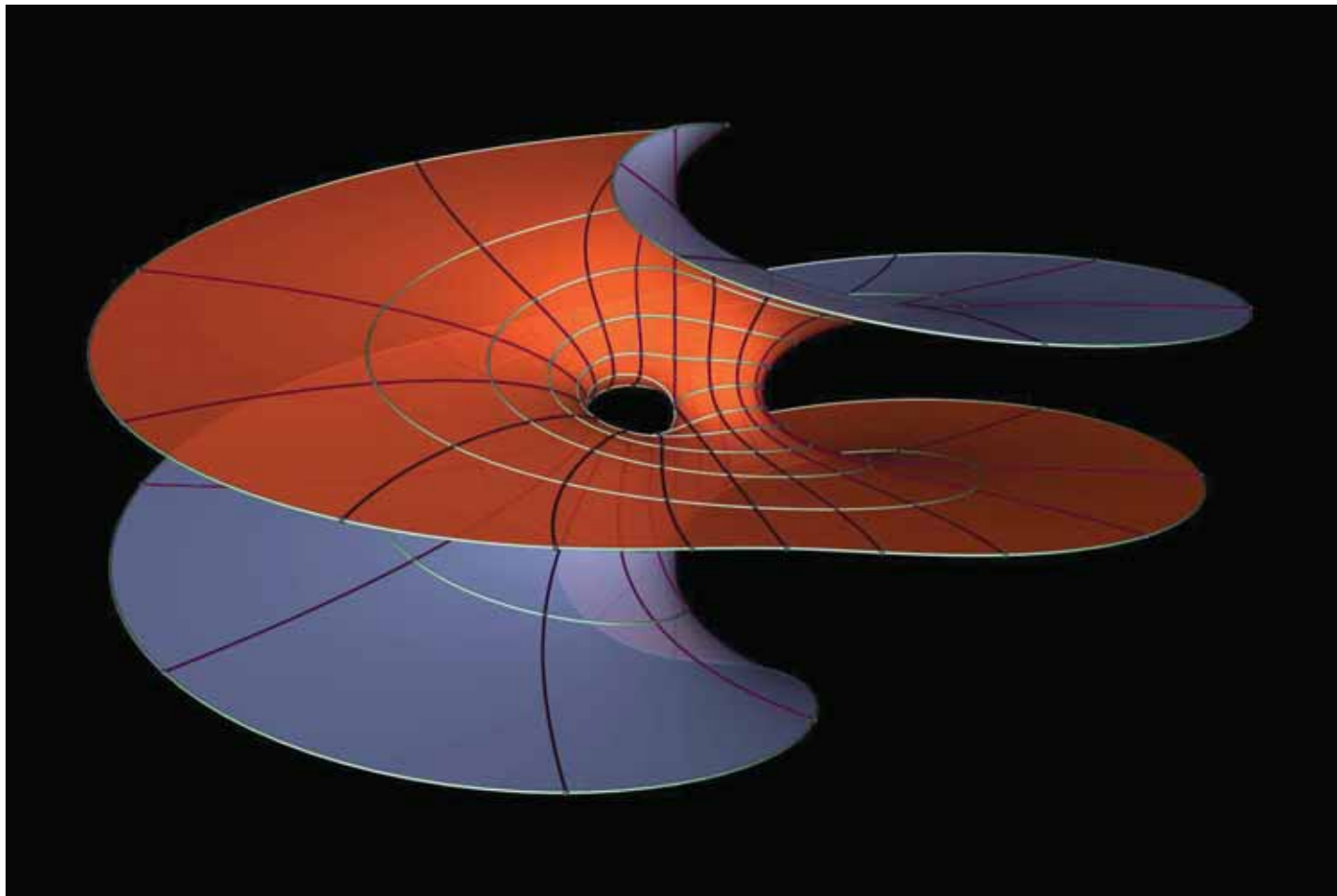


Photo credits: 1) Ben Edwards 2,4,5) Jennifer Wade 3) WiscSIMS





# NSF Directorates and Offices Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)



# Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)

**Kathy McCloud**

Division of Physics (PHY)

[kmcccloud@nsf.gov](mailto:kmcccloud@nsf.gov)



MPS coordinator for the Major Research Instrumentation program.

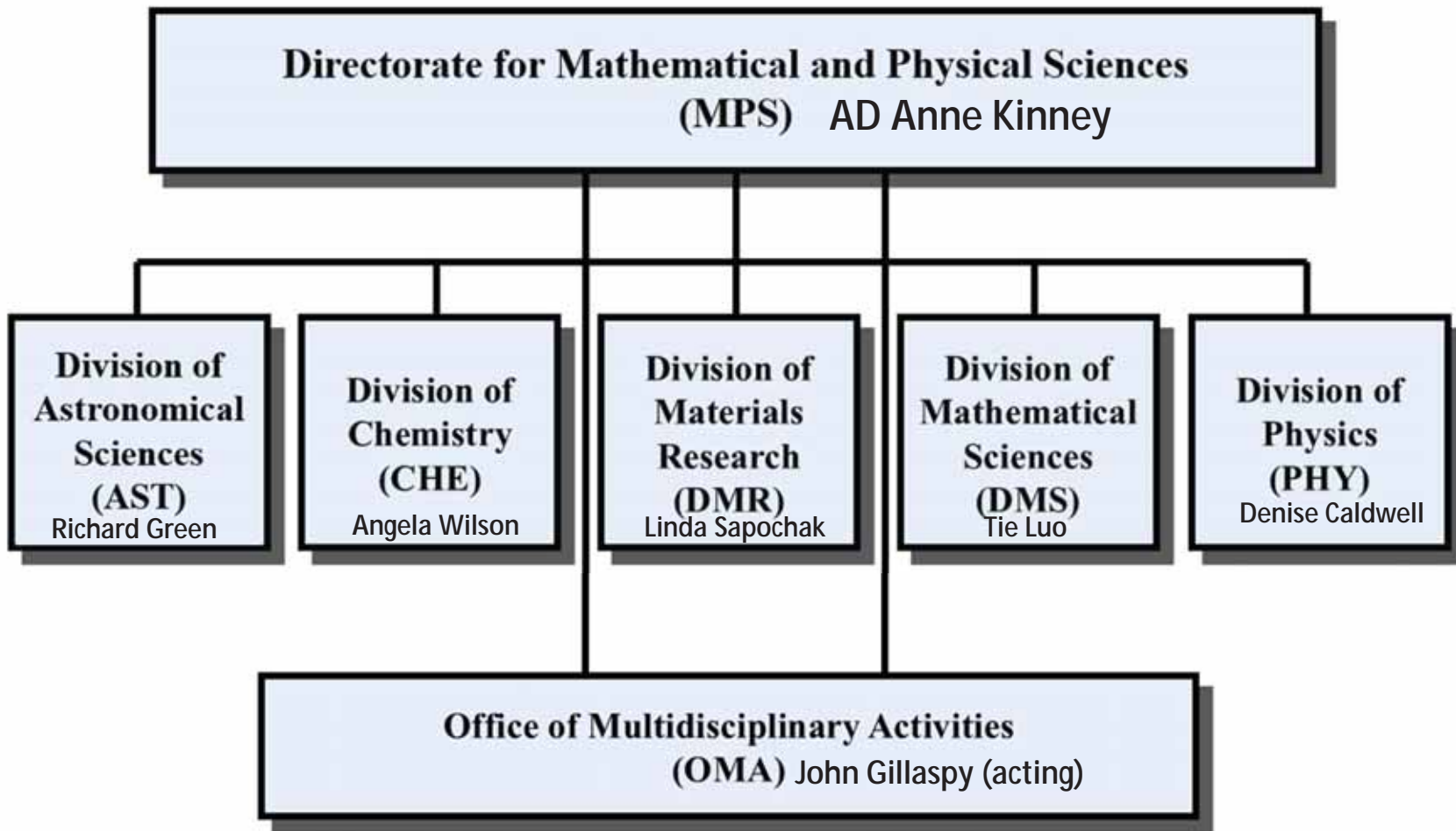
Works on a number of different programs in the Physics Division, including the CAREER program, the Major Research Instrumentation program, and the Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program.

Taught for ten years at Xavier University of Louisiana before being chased out by a hurricane.

I used to love to climb trees and read, preferably at the same time. I still love to read.



# Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)



# Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)

## EMPHASIS AREAS

Physical sciences at the nanoscale

Quantum information science

Physics of the universe

Advances in optics and photonics

Data Driven Science, Big Data

Sustainability

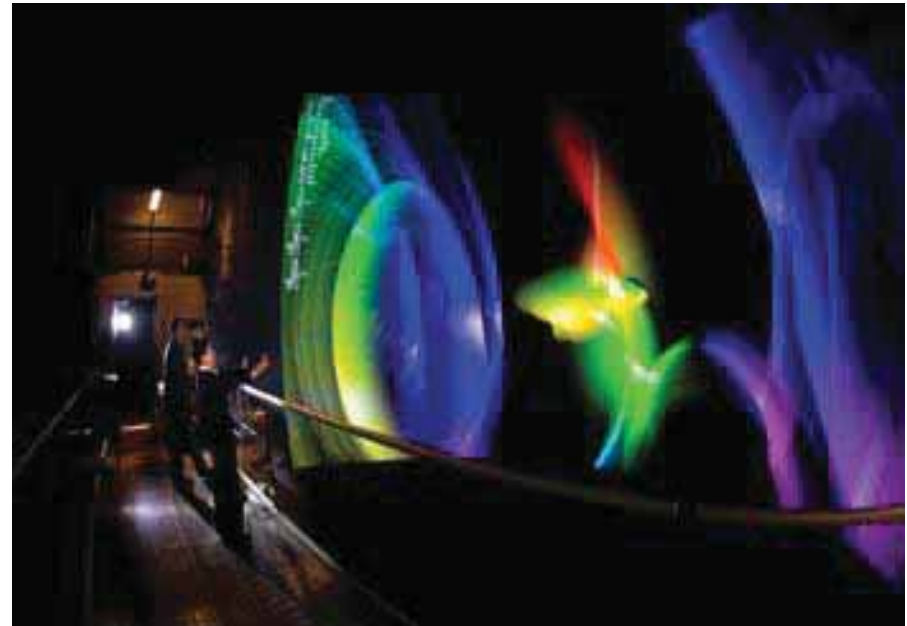
Materials by design

World-class shared-use facilities

Broadening Participation

Complex systems (multi-scale, emergent phenomena)

Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems





# NSF Directorates and Offices

## Social, Behavioral, & Economic Science (SBE)



# Social, Behavioral, & Economic Science (SBE)

**Kurt Thoroughman**

Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)

[kthoroug@nsf.gov](mailto:kthoroug@nsf.gov)



Program Director, Science of Learning

NSF-wide activities:

- Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems
- Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience
- Cyberlearning
- Science of Broadening Participation


On assignment from Washington University in St. Louis



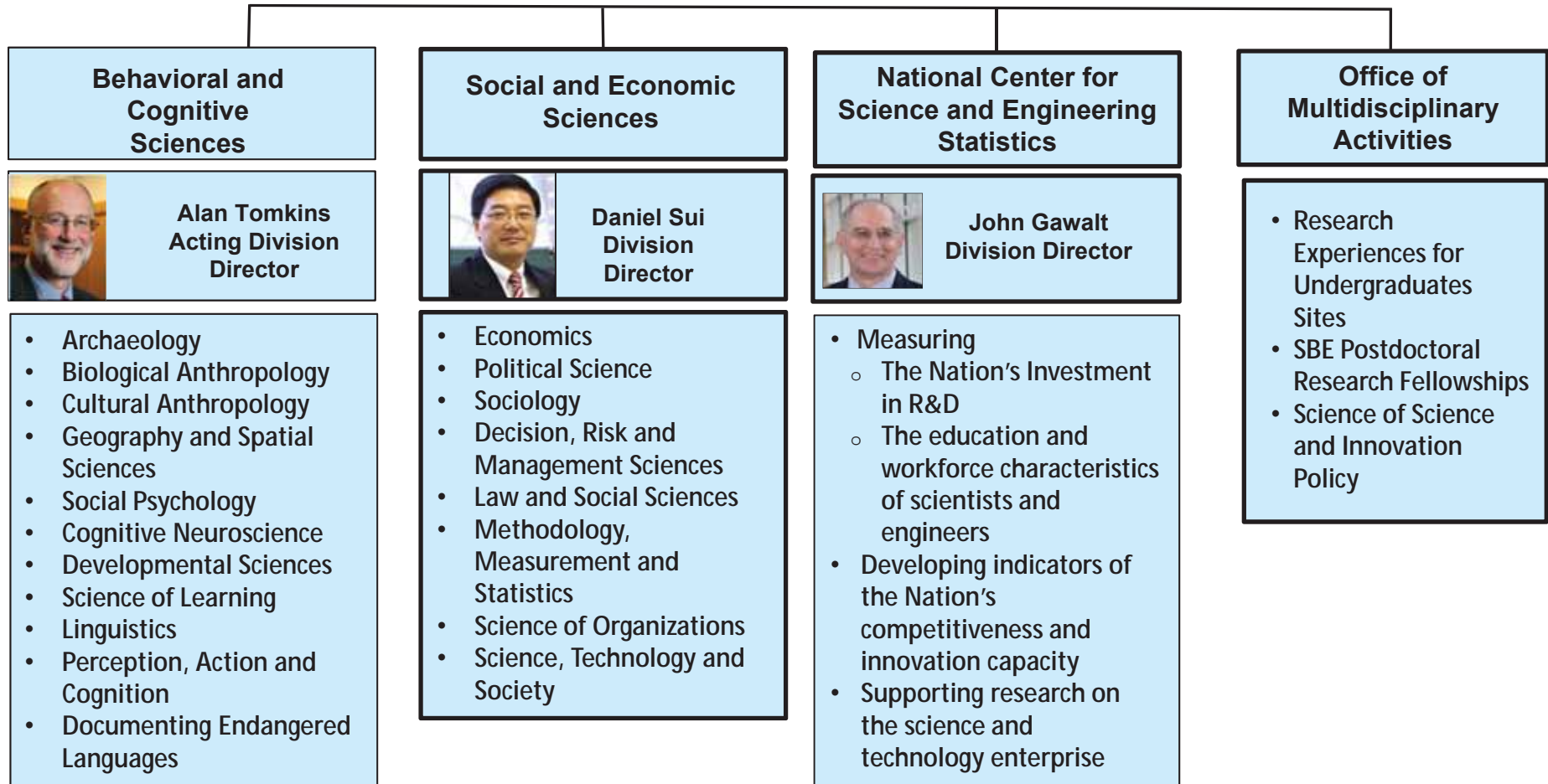
# Social, Behavioral, & Economic Science (SBE)



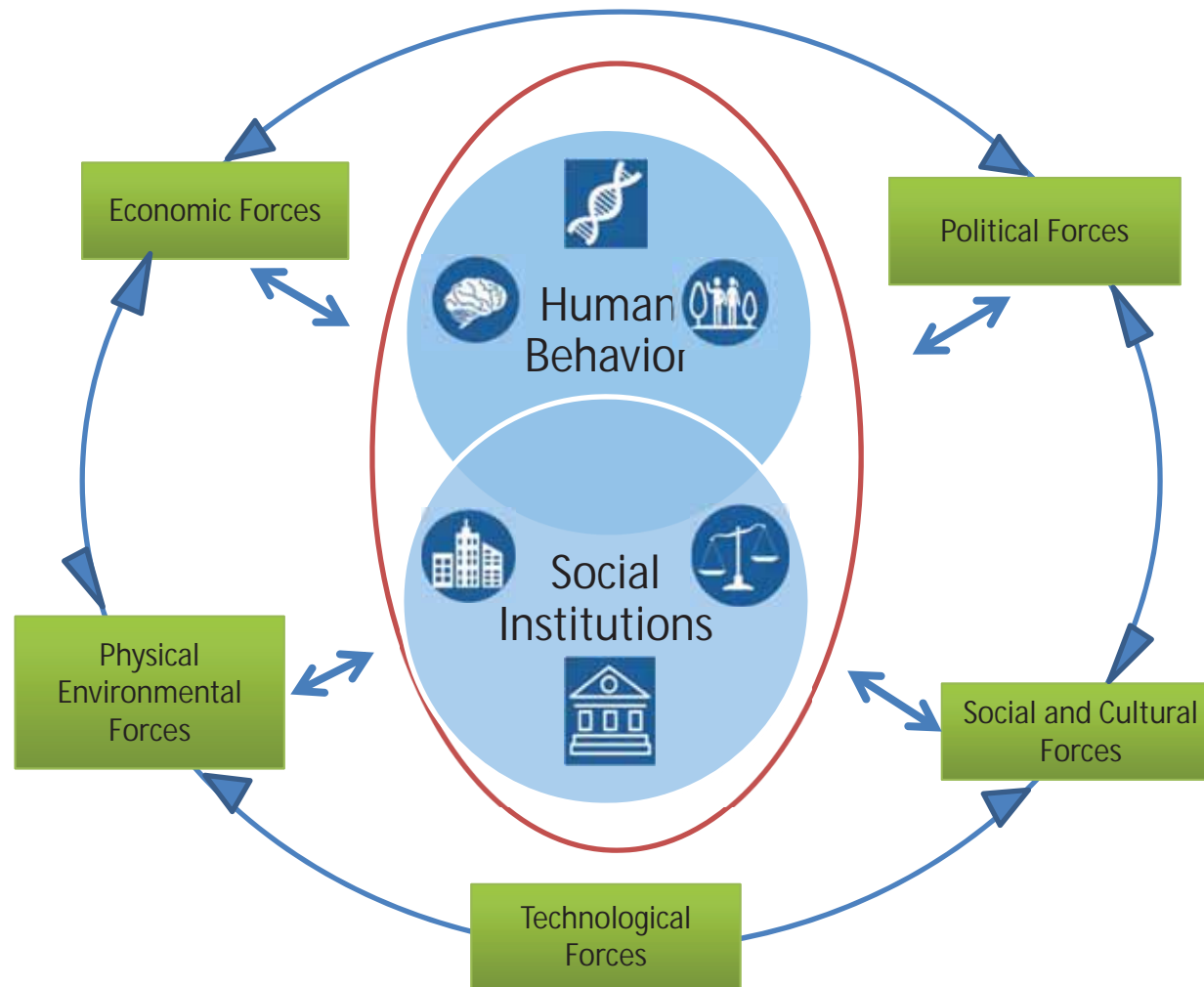
**Fay Lomax Cook**  
Assistant Director



**Kellina Craig-Henderson**  
Deputy Asst. Director



# SBE Research in a Nutshell: A Heuristic Framework





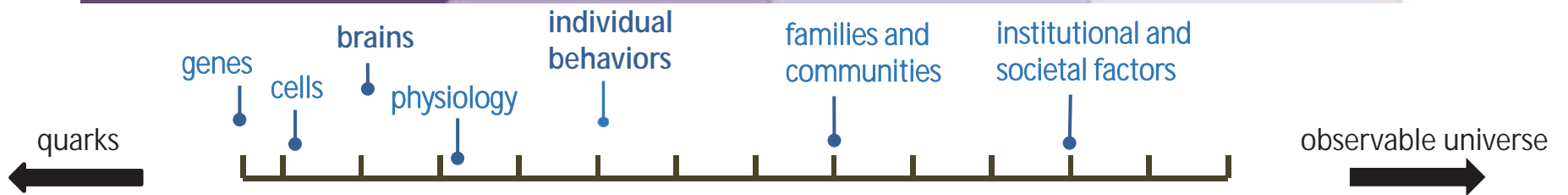
# Science at the Scale of Cells to Society

**Within Individuals:** Genes, Cells, Brains, Physiology

**Between Individuals:** Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Personality including Temperament, Cognitive Style; Emotional Reactivity

**Micro-Environmental Differences:** Family, Schools, Workplaces, Neighborhoods

**Macro-Environmental:** National Policy, Economic Conditions, Inequality, Social Stratification, Regional Differences



Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



# NSF Directorates and Offices

## Office of Integrative Activities (OD/OIA)



# Office of Integrative Activities (OD/OIA)

Rebecca Kruse

Evaluation & Assessment Capability (EAC)

[rkruse@nsf.gov](mailto:rkruse@nsf.gov)



Monitoring and/or evaluation of NSF investments in STEM and STEM education, such as:

- Chemical Centers of Innovation (CCI)
- Geoscience Education and Diversity (GEO-Ed) Portfolio
- NSF INCLUDES
- Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water
- Education & Human Resources (EHR) Directorate Portfolio

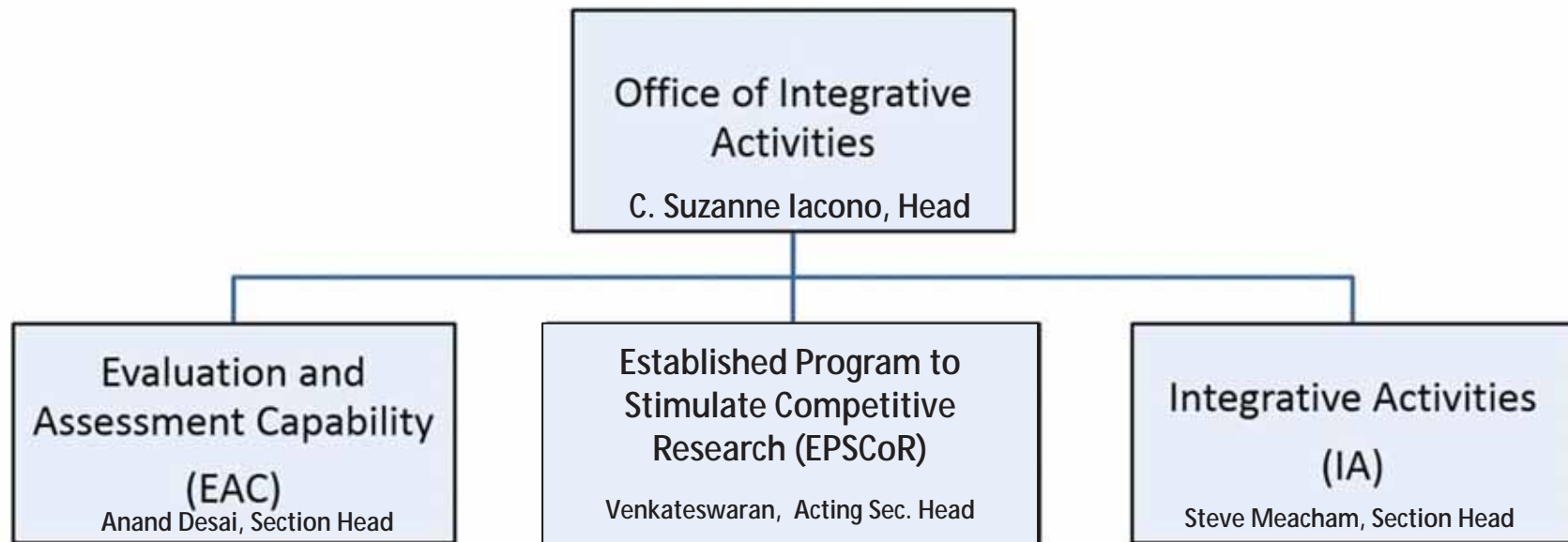
Former Program Director in Division of Research on Learning (EHR)

Knowledge Broker to the core, supporting translations of Data “Actionable Insights” Actions.

Enjoys cooking, the outdoors, baseball (Go STL Cards!), and playing with her 3 dogs.



# Office of Integrative Activities (OD/OIA)





# Office of Integrative Activities (OD/OIA)



IA: Science and Technology Centers - **STC**

IA: Major Research Instrumentation - **MRI**

IA: Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science **INCLUDES** - 17-522

EPSCoR: Research Infrastructure Improvement - **RII**

EPSCoR: Co-Funding; Outreach, Workshops

EAC: Evaluation and Assessment of Crosscutting programs



# NSF Directorates and Offices

## Office of International Science & Engineering



# Office of International Science & Engineering

## Fahmida N. Chowdhury

Office of International Science & Engineering (OISE)

[fchowdhu@nsf.gov](mailto:fchowdhu@nsf.gov)

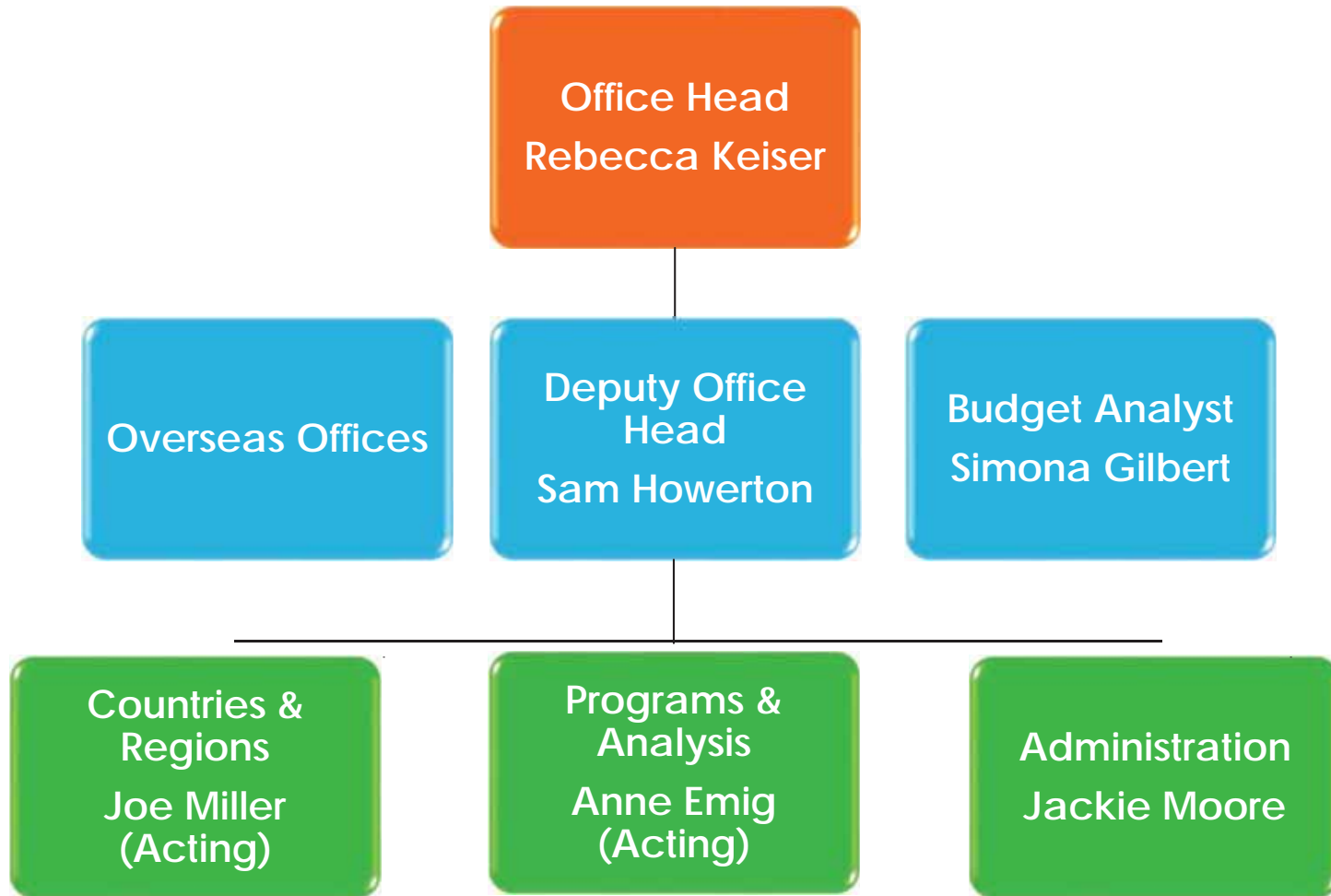


Fahmida Chowdhury runs the International Research Experience for Students (IRES) program in OISE.

Her OISE country portfolio includes: Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan.

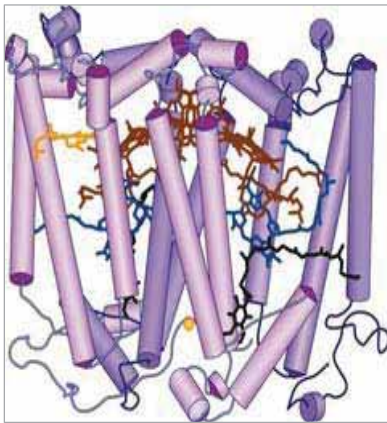
Fahmida loves to travel. She also likes to read and solve Sudoku puzzles.

# Office of International Science & Engineering





# Office of International Science & Engineering



## PRIORITIES

Advance the FRONTIERS of S&E via international collaboration

Prepare a GLOBALLY-ENGAGED U.S. S&E workforce

Develop GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS that link U.S. faculty and students to the world

Leverage RESOURCES, EXPERTISE, FACILITIES around the globe



# Getting Started The Essentials



# www.NSF.gov

The screenshot displays the NSF.gov website interface. At the top left is the NSF logo with the tagline "National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". A search bar is located at the top right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Research Areas", "Funding", "Awards", "Document Library", "News", and "About NSF".

The main content area features several news items:

- A large image on the left shows a person in a dark environment using a flashlight to illuminate a specimen.
- A news item titled "Spray-on memory could enable bendable digital storage" dated April 3, 2017, includes a small thumbnail image of a grid of colored squares.
- Another news item titled "Harms of nighttime light exposure passed to offspring" dated March 31, 2017, features a portrait of a woman with glasses.
- A smaller article titled "Feeding fat to fungi: Evidence for arbuscular mycorrhiza" dated April 6, 2017, includes a thumbnail image of green fungal structures.

Below the news items is a section titled "NSF Social Media". It features a "TWITTER" tab and a "FOLLOW" button. A tweet from the National Science Fdn (@NSF) is displayed, announcing a Facebook Live roundtable on #citsci #CrowdCloudLIVE on April 3, 2017. To the right of the tweet are icons for various social media platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, RSS, etc.) and a link to "See all NSF social media".

At the bottom of the page is a section titled "NSF Funding & Research Community" with a "SPECIAL NOTICES" link.



# Navigating: Funding at www.NSF.gov

The screenshot displays the NSF website's navigation menu. The 'Funding' menu is open, showing a list of options: About Funding, Browse Funding Opportunities A-Z, Due Dates, Find Funding, Merit Review, Policies and Procedures, Preparing Proposals, Recent Opportunities, and Transformative Research. To the right of this menu is a 'RELATED LINKS' section with links to Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), Research.gov, FastLane, and a 'FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR' section listing Graduate Students, K-12 Educators, Postdoctoral Fellows, Undergraduate Students, and Small Business. The background shows a search bar, a navigation bar with 'Research Areas', 'Funding', 'Awards', 'Document Library', 'News', and 'About NSF', and a featured article titled 'FUNDED RESEARCH' about material in early Earth.

**NSF** National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Contact | Help

Search

**NSB** Research Areas **Funding** Awards Document Library News About NSF

ABOUT FUNDING

- [Browse Funding Opportunities A-Z](#)
- [Due Dates](#)
- [Find Funding](#)
- [Merit Review](#)
- [Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Preparing Proposals](#)
- [Recent Opportunities](#)
- [Transformative Research](#)

RELATED LINKS

- [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#)
- [Research.gov](#)
- [FastLane](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR

- [Graduate Students](#)
- [K-12 Educators](#)
- [Postdoctoral Fellows](#)
- [Undergraduate Students](#)
- [Small Business](#)

**FUNDED RESEARCH**

s with material  
n early Earth

**FULL STORY**

- HIDE

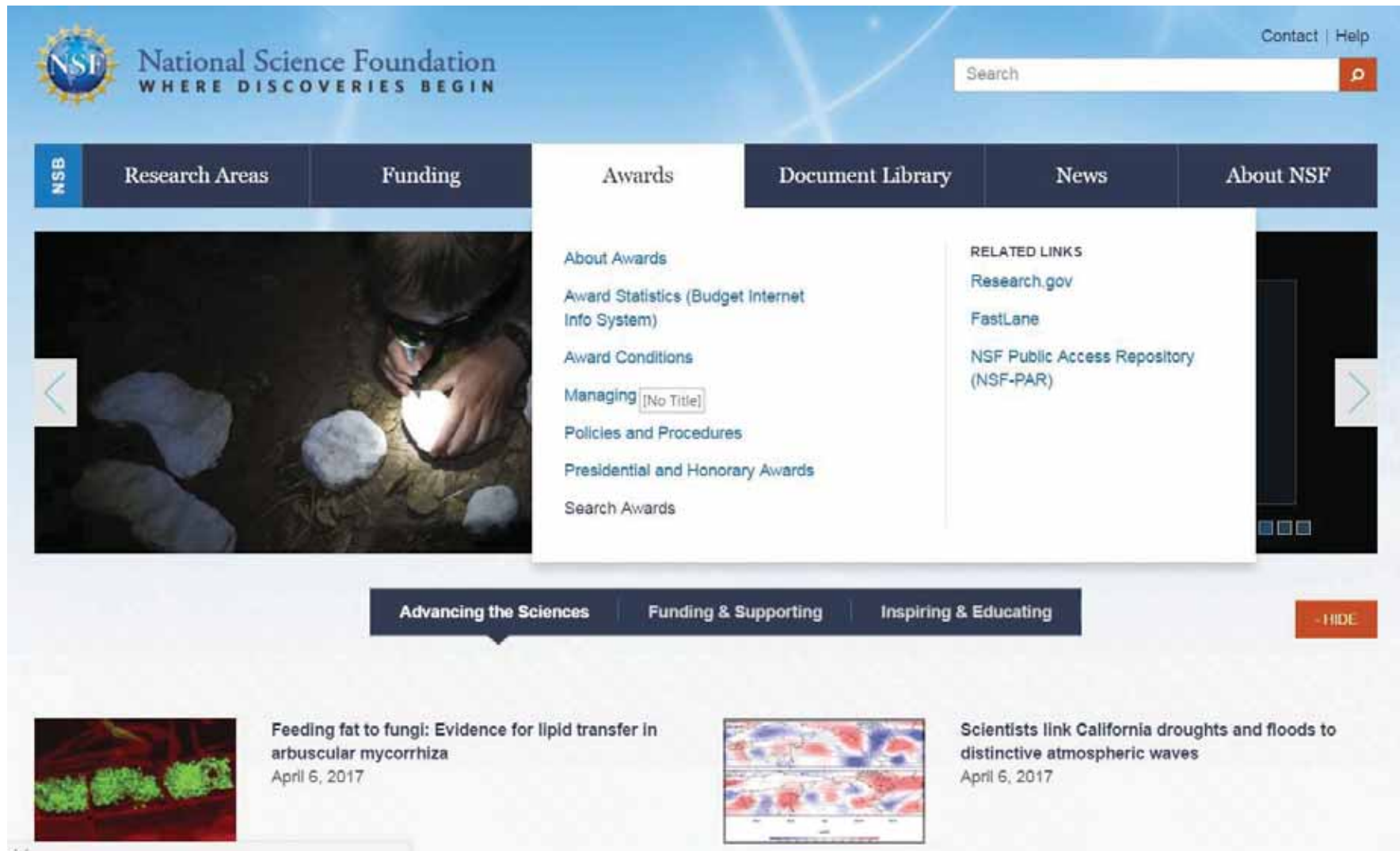
**Feeding fat to fungi: Evidence for lipid transfer in arbuscular mycorrhiza**  
April 6, 2017

**Scientists link California droughts and floods to distinctive atmospheric waves**  
April 6, 2017





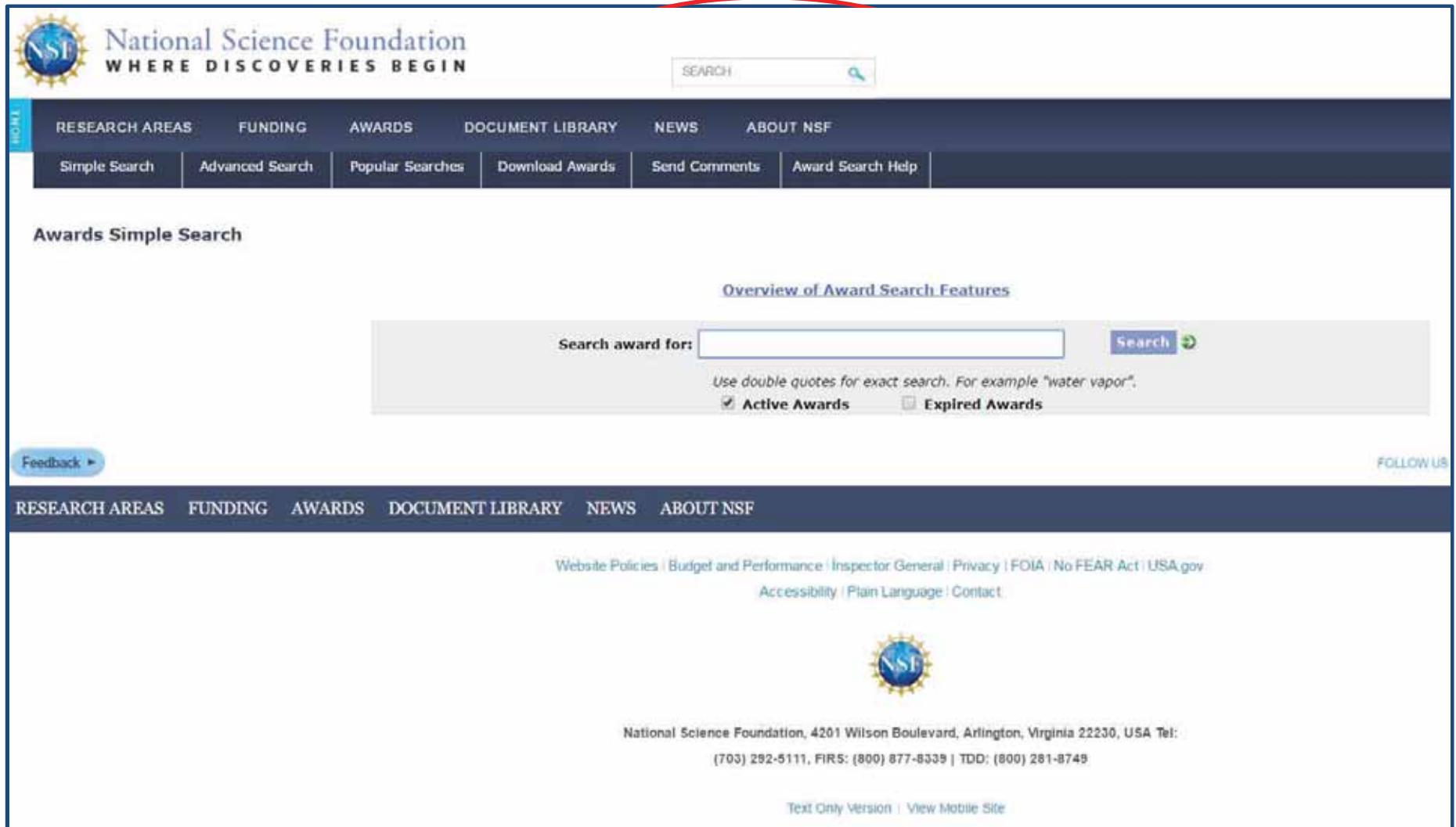
# Navigating: Awards at www.NSF.gov



The screenshot shows the NSF website's Awards page. At the top left is the NSF logo with the tagline "National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". To the right is a search bar and "Contact | Help" links. A navigation bar below the header contains "NSB", "Research Areas", "Funding", "Awards" (which is highlighted), "Document Library", "News", and "About NSF". The "Awards" dropdown menu is open, listing: "About Awards", "Award Statistics (Budget Internet Info System)", "Award Conditions", "Managing [No Title]", "Policies and Procedures", "Presidential and Honorary Awards", and "Search Awards". To the right of the menu is a "RELATED LINKS" section with "Research.gov", "FastLane", and "NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR)". Below the navigation bar are three main categories: "Advancing the Sciences", "Funding & Supporting", and "Inspiring & Educating", with a "- HIDE" button. The main content area features two news items: "Feeding fat to fungi: Evidence for lipid transfer in arbuscular mycorrhiza" dated April 6, 2017, and "Scientists link California droughts and floods to distinctive atmospheric waves" dated April 6, 2017. A large image of a person using a flashlight to examine rocks is visible on the left side of the Awards menu.



# Navigating: Awards at www.NSF.gov



The screenshot shows the NSF website's Awards Simple Search interface. At the top left is the NSF logo with the tagline "National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". A search bar is located at the top right. Below the logo is a dark blue navigation bar with links for RESEARCH AREAS, FUNDING, AWARDS, DOCUMENT LIBRARY, NEWS, and ABOUT NSF. A secondary navigation bar contains links for Simple Search, Advanced Search, Popular Searches, Download Awards, Send Comments, and Award Search Help. The main content area is titled "Awards Simple Search" and includes a link for "Overview of Award Search Features". A search form is centered, featuring a text input field labeled "Search award for:", a "Search" button with a magnifying glass icon, and a note: "Use double quotes for exact search. For example 'water vapor'". Below the input field are two checkboxes: "Active Awards" (checked) and "Expired Awards" (unchecked). A "Feedback" button is on the left, and "FOLLOW US" is on the right. A second navigation bar is at the bottom, and a footer contains links for Website Policies, Budget and Performance, Inspector General, Privacy, FOIA, No FEAR Act, USA.gov, Accessibility, Plain Language, and Contact. The NSF logo is centered in the footer, followed by the address: "National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA Tel: (703) 292-5111, FIRS: (800) 877-8339 | TDD: (800) 281-8749". At the very bottom of the footer are links for "Text Only Version" and "View Mobile Site".




# Navigating www.NSF.gov

**NSF** FUNDING AWARDS DISCOVERIES NEWS PUBLICATIONS STATISTICS ABOUT NSF FASTLANE

Simple Search | Advanced Search | Popular Searches | Download Awards | Send Comments | Award Search Help

### Awards Advanced Search

 [See What's New in the New Award Search](#)

#### Awardee Information

Principal Investigator First Name Organization  
   
Principal Investigator Last Name State  
 Include Co-Principal Investigator in name search  
   
Zip Code  
   
Country

#### Program Information

NSF Organization Element Code  
 Any  All  
   
Reference Code  
 Any  All  
  
Program  
Program Officer

HINT: The "Program" box searches both program element and program reference names and codes.

#### Additional Information

Keyword  
HINT: The Keyword field searches on the title and abstract only.  
 Search Award Title Only  
   
Award Number  
From To  
   
Award Amount  
Award Instrument

HINT: Data prior to 1976 may be less complete.  
 Active Awards  Expired Awards  
    
Original Award Date From To  
Select one  
    
Start Date From To  
Select one  
    
Expiration Date From To  
Select one



# Additional Information on Resources

Join Directorate  
Specific Listserves!

Use Grants.gov's  
search feature

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Grants.gov logo and the tagline "FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED." on the left. On the right, there are links for "HELP", "MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS", "REGISTER", and "LOGIN". Below this is a search bar with a dropdown menu set to "Grant Opportunities" and a "GO" button. A secondary navigation bar contains links for "HOME", "LEARN GRANTS", "SEARCH GRANTS", "APPLICANTS", "GRANTORS", "SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM", "FORMS", "OUTREACH", and "SUPPORT". The main content area features a large banner with the text "Apply for a Grant Online Now" and a sub-headline "Apply for grants by creating a workspace. This feature enables you and your colleagues to work on the grant application online together." Below the banner is a red button that says "Apply for a Grant with Workspace »". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with ten icons and their corresponding labels: "SEARCH GRANTS", "GET STARTED", "GRANT POLICIES", "GRANT-MAKING AGENCIES", "PREVENT SCAMS", "COMMUNITY BLOG", "TWITTER FEED", "YOUTUBE VIDEOS", "ONLINE HELP", and "CONTACT CENTER".



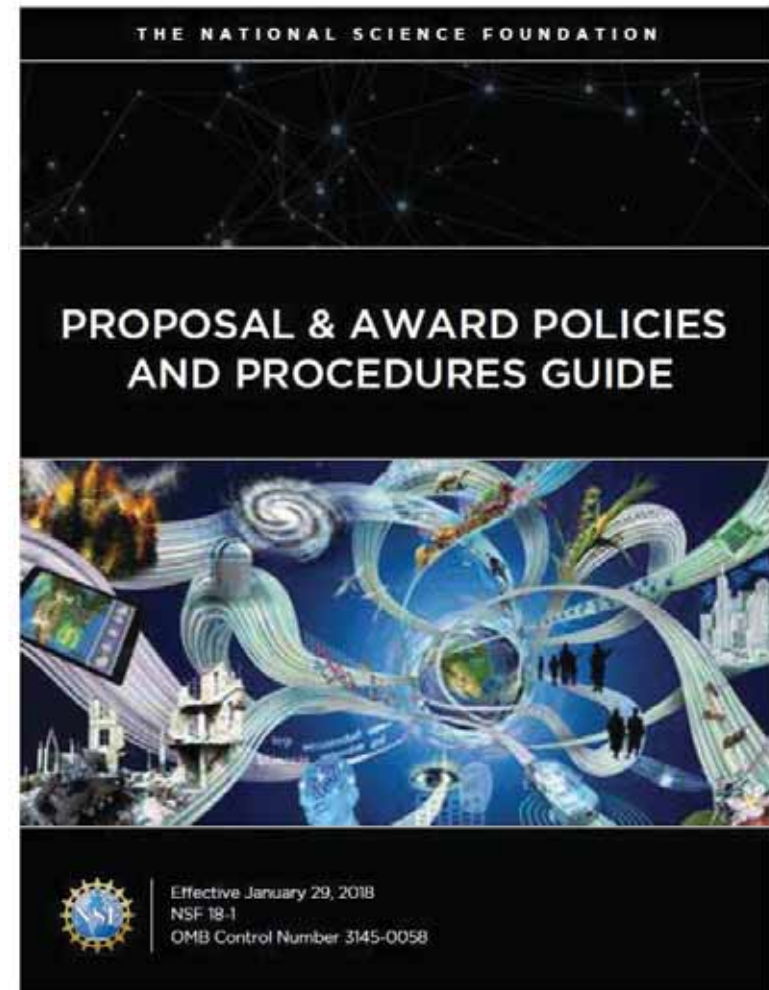


# What is the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide?

The Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) contains documents relating to NSF's proposal and award process. It has been designed for use by both our customer community and NSF staff and consists of two parts.

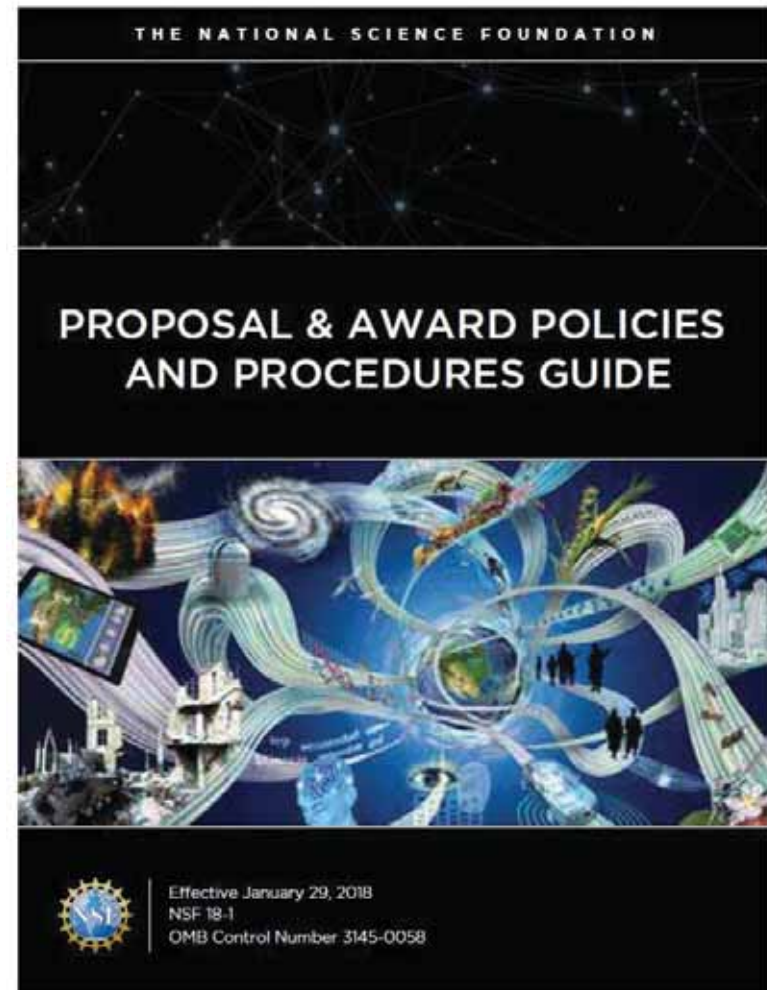
Part I is NSF's proposal preparation and submission guidelines

Part II is NSF's award and administration guidelines



# What is the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide?

- Provides guidance for preparation and submission of proposals to NSF
- Describes process – and criteria – by which proposals will be reviewed
- Outlines reasons why a proposal may not be accepted or returned without review
- Describes process for withdrawals, returns, and declinations
- Includes policies to guide, manage, and monitor the award and administration of grants and cooperative agreements



# Types of Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

## Program Descriptions

Proposals for a **Program Description** must follow the instructions in the PAPPG.

## Program Announcements

Proposals for a **Program Announcement** must follow the instructions in the PAPPG.

## Program Solicitations

Proposals must follow the instructions in the **Program Solicitation**; the instructions in the PAPPG apply unless otherwise stated in the solicitation.

## Dear Colleague Letters

**Dear Colleague Letters** are notifications of opportunities or special competitions for supplements to existing NSF awards.



# Types of Proposals

- Research
- RAPID
- EAGER
- RAISE
- GOALI
- Ideas Lab
- FASED
- Conference
- Equipment
- Travel
- Facility/Center
- Fellowship





# Navigating a Program Description

[Division of Mathematical Sciences](#)

## Algebra and Number Theory

---

**CONTACTS** ←

Name	Email	Phone	Room
<a href="#">Tie Luo</a>	<a href="mailto:tluo@nsf.gov">tluo@nsf.gov</a>	(703) 292-8448	1025 N
<a href="#">J. Matthew Douglass</a>	<a href="mailto:mdouglas@nsf.gov">mdouglas@nsf.gov</a>	(703) 292-2467	1025 N
<a href="#">Andrew Pollington</a>	<a href="mailto:adpollin@nsf.gov">adpollin@nsf.gov</a>	(703) 292-4878	1025 N
<a href="#">Victoria Powers</a>	<a href="mailto:vpowers@nsf.gov">vpowers@nsf.gov</a>	(703) 292-2113	1025 N

**PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

Apply to PD 10-1264 as follows: ←

For full proposals submitted via FastLane: standard [Grant Proposal Guide](#) proposal preparation guidelines apply.  
For full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide; A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov Guidelines* applies. (Note: The *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=grantsgovguide](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide))

**Important Information for Proposers**

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)* (NSF 15-1), is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after December 26, 2014. The PAPPG is consistent with, and, implements the new Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) (2 CFR § 200). Please be advised that the guidelines contained in NSF 15-1 apply to proposals submitted in response to this funding opportunity.

**DUE DATES** ←

Full Proposal Target Date: October 9, 2015  
Second Friday of October  
Second Friday in October, Annually Thereafter

Research proposals (as opposed to conference proposals) are expected to be submitted by the target date. An extension may be granted under unusual extenuating circumstances, provided that approval is obtained from the cognizant Program Director prior to the target date.

**SYNOPSIS** ←

The Algebra and Number Theory program supports research in algebra, algebraic and arithmetic geometry, number theory, and representation theory.

**Conferences**

Principal Investigators should carefully read the program solicitation "Conferences and Workshops in the Mathematical Sciences" (link below) to obtain important information regarding the substance of proposals for conferences, workshops, summer/winter schools, and similar activities.

For conference proposals with budgets not exceeding \$50,000, which in accordance with NSF policy can be reviewed internally at NSF, the following target dates are in effect: For an event that will take place at some time prior to October 1 during a given year, the proposal should be submitted in October of the previous year. For an event that will occur in the period October 1 through December 31 of a given year, the proposal should be submitted in May of that year. A conference proposal with a budget request exceeding \$50,000 should be submitted roughly seven months before the event is scheduled to take place, in order to allow time for external review.

**RELATED PROGRAMS**

[Focused Research Groups in the Mathematical Sciences](#)  
[Research Training Groups in the Mathematical Sciences](#)  
[Faculty Early Career Development Program](#)  
[Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships](#)  
[NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#)

**RELATED URLS**

[Conferences and Workshops in the Mathematical Sciences](#)

**THIS PROGRAM IS PART OF**

Disciplinary Research Programs

←

[What Has Been Funded \(Recent Awards Made Through This Program, with Abstracts\)](#)  
[Map of Recent Awards Made Through This Program](#)  
[News](#)

# Navigating a Program Solicitation

**Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum (EARS)**


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**PROGRAM SOLICITATION**  
NSF 15-550

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**REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):**  
NSF 14-529

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 **National Science Foundation**  
Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences  
Division of Astronomical Sciences  
  
Directorate for Engineering  
Division of Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems  
  
Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering  
Division of Computer and Network Systems

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**Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):  
June 02, 2015

---

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES**

Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the revised NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 15-1), which is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after December 26, 2014. The PAPPG is consistent with, and implements the new Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) (2 CFR § 200).

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**SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

---

**General Information**

---

**Program Title:**  
Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum (EARS)  
Opportunities for interdisciplinary research that increases the efficiency of the radio spectrum, expanding the access to wireless-enabled services for all Americans.

**Synopsis of Program:**  
The National Science Foundation's Directorates for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), Engineering (ENG), and Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) are coordinating efforts to identify bold new concepts with the potential to

**Award Information**

---

**Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 20 to 25

Each proposal may request up to \$750,000 in total funding over a period of up to three years.

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$15,000,000

---

**Eligibility Information**

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**Who May Submit Proposals:**

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Universities and Colleges - Universities and two- and four-year colleges (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in, the US acting on behalf of their faculty members. Such organizations also are referred to as academic institutions.
- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities.

**Who May Serve as PI:**

There are no restrictions or limits.

**Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:**

There are no restrictions or limits.

**Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI:**

A proposer may be a Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on up to two proposals.

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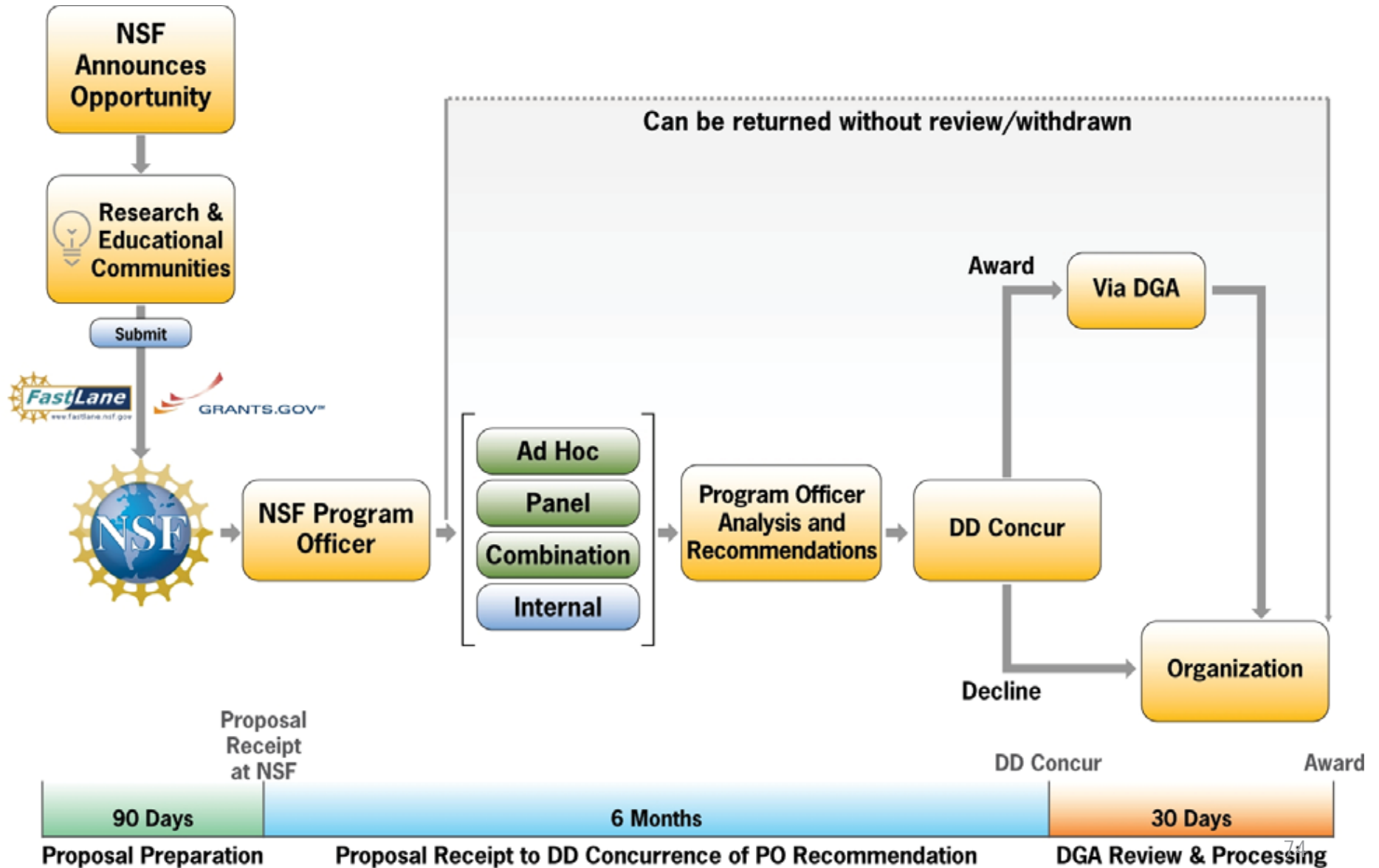
**Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions**

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**A. Proposal Preparation Instructions**

- **Letters of Intent:** Not required
- **Preliminary Proposal Submission:** Not required
- **Full Proposals:**
  - Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, Part I: Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) Guidelines apply. The complete

# NSF Proposal & Award Process Timeline





# Types of Proposal Submissions



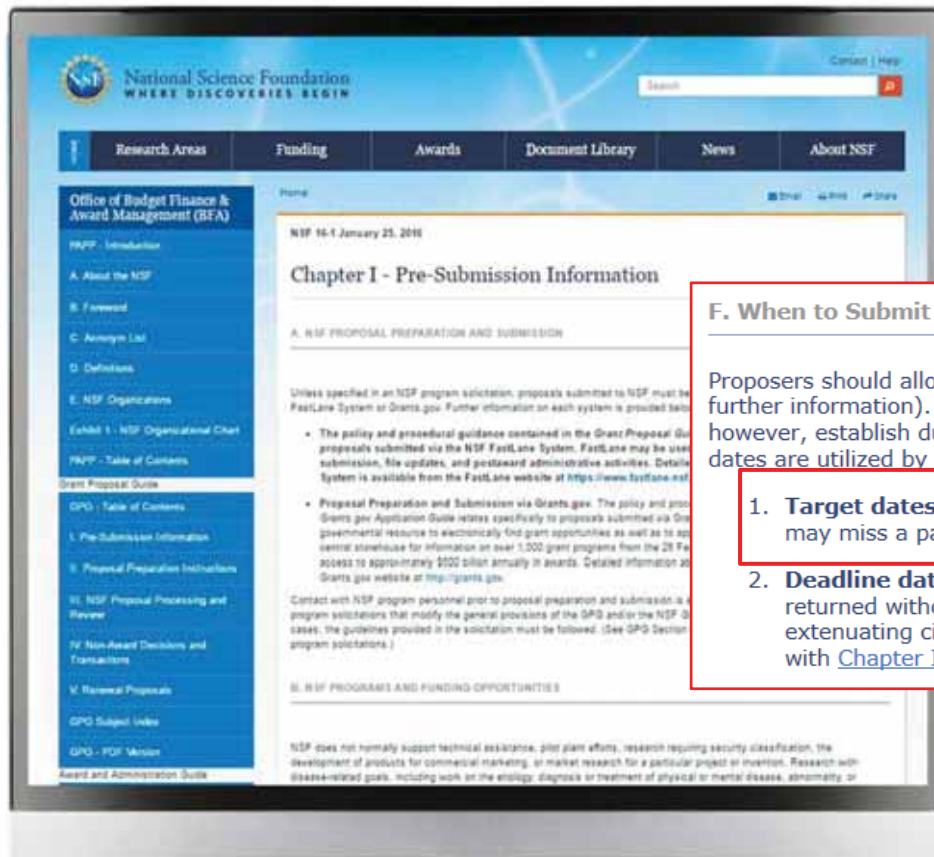
## NO DEADLINES

Proposals may be submitted at any time





# Types of Proposal Submissions



## TARGET DATES

Talk to the Program Office if you think you might miss the date

### F. When to Submit Proposals

Proposers should allow adequate time for processing of proposals (see [Chapter I.H](#) for further information). Many NSF programs accept proposals at any time. Other programs, however, establish due dates for submission of proposals. The following types of due dates are utilized by NSF:

1. **Target dates:** dates after which proposals will still be accepted, although they may miss a particular panel or committee meeting.
2. **Deadline dates:** dates after which proposals will not be accepted or will be returned without review by NSF. The deadline date will be waived only in extenuating circumstances. Such a deviation only may be authorized in accordance with [Chapter II.A](#).



# Types of Proposal Submissions

Deadline Dates –  
Proposals will not be  
accepted after this date  
and time (5 pm  
submitter's local time)



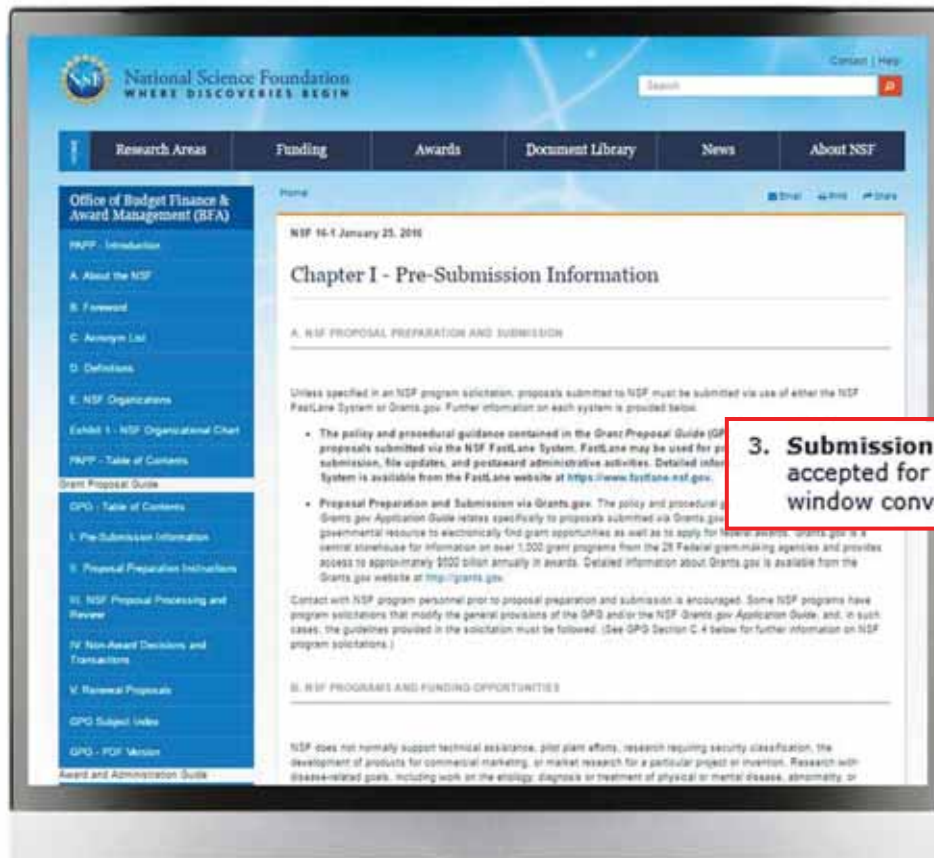
## F. When to Submit Proposals

Proposers should allow adequate time for NSF review and processing of proposals (see [GPG Chapter I.H](#) for further information). Many NSF programs accept proposals at any time. Other programs, however, establish due dates for submission of proposals. The following types of due dates are utilized by NSF:

1. **Target dates:** dates after which proposals will still be accepted, although they may miss a particular panel or committee meeting.
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# Types of Proposal Submissions



## SUBMISSION WINDOWS

Proposals will not be accepted after this date and time (5 p.m. submitter's local time)

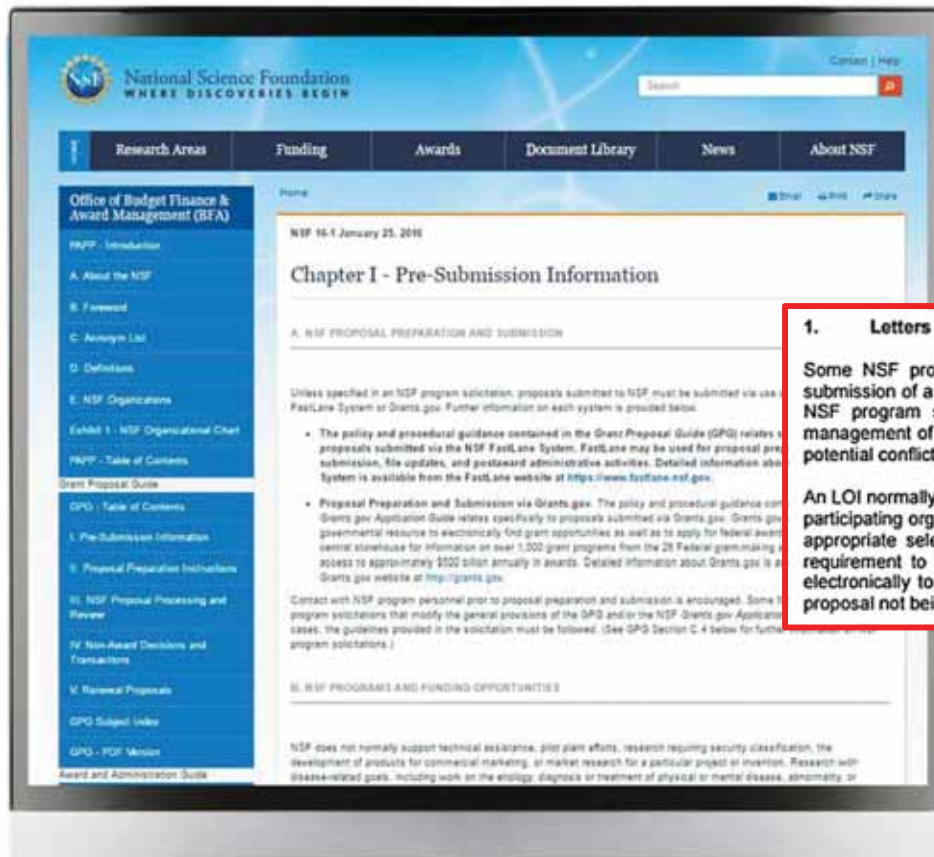
**3. Submission windows:** designated periods of time during which proposals will be accepted for review by NSF. It is NSF's policy that the end date of a submission window converts to, and is subject to, the same policies as a deadline date.



# Types of Proposal Submissions

## LETTERS OF INTENT

Enables better management of reviewers and panelists



### 1. Letters of Intent

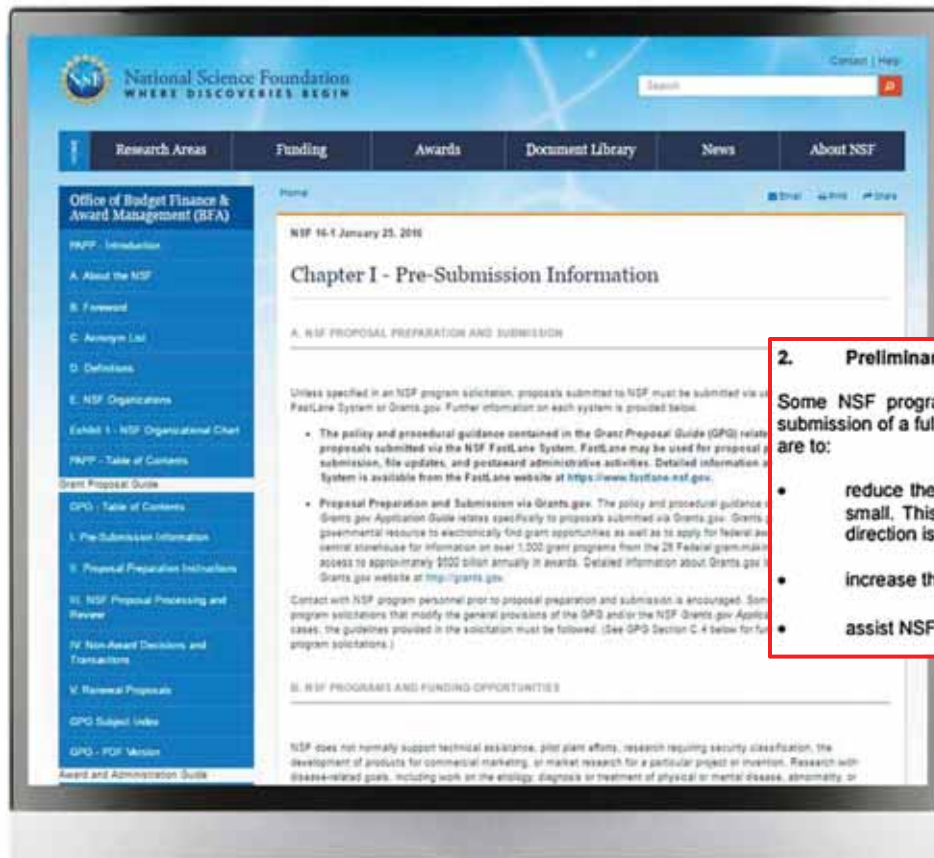
Some NSF program solicitations require or request submission of a letter of intent (LOI) in advance of submission of a full proposal. An LOI is not a binding document. The predominant reason for its use is to help NSF program staff gauge the size and range of the competition, enabling earlier selection and better management of reviewers and panelists. In addition, the information contained in an LOI is used to help avoid potential conflicts of interest in the review process.

An LOI normally contains the Principal Investigator's (PI's) and co-PI's names, a proposed title, a list of possible participating organizations (if applicable), and a synopsis that describes the work in sufficient detail to permit an appropriate selection of reviewers. An LOI is not externally evaluated or used to decide on funding. The requirement to submit an LOI will be identified in the program solicitation, and such letters are submitted electronically to NSF. Failure to submit a required LOI identified in a program solicitation will result in a full proposal not being accepted or returned without review.





# Types of Proposal Submissions



## PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS

Sometimes required, sometimes optional

### 2. Preliminary Proposals

Some NSF program solicitations require or request submission of a preliminary proposal in advance of submission of a full proposal. The three predominant reasons for requiring submission of a preliminary proposal are to:

- reduce the proposers' unnecessary effort in proposal preparation when the chance of success is very small. This is particularly true of exploratory initiatives when the community senses that a major new direction is being identified, or competitions that will result in a small number of awards;
- increase the overall quality of the full submission; and
- assist NSF program staff in managing the review process and in the selection of reviewers.



# Questions on Funding Opportunities?



Contact your  
NSF Program Officer

Work with your organization's  
sponsored projects office



Ask Early, Ask Often  
[policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov)



# Things to Consider Before Writing a Proposal...



# Five Key Elements



1. Great idea
2. Fit with current research expertise and career development plans
3. Ability to devise a strategy including benchmarks, timelines, and metrics
4. Adequate resources to accomplish your project
5. Assessment Plan



# Developing your Proposal

## Key Questions for Prospective Investigators

- What has already been done?
- Develop hunch or hypotheses for forward progress
- Obtain preliminary data
- What do you intend to do?
- Why is the work important or unique?



# Proposal Development Strategies:

## What Do You Need Besides \$ ???

- Prepare to do the project
  - How are you going to do the work?
  - Realistically assess needs
  - Do you have the right team?
  - Determine available resources
  - Present to colleagues/mentors/students
- Determine possible funding sources  
(NSF may not be the right or the only one)



# Proposal Development Strategies:

What details should you glean from the solicitation?



- Overall scope and mission
- Instructions (deviations from the PAPPG)
- How your proposed project fits with the solicitation
- Review procedures and criteria
- Deadlines



# Proposal Development Strategies:

## Who Should You Talk To?

### NSF Program Officer

Your proposed project

Clarifications on specific program requirements/limitations

Current program patterns

### Your Organization's Sponsored Projects Office

- University guidelines for applications
- Institutional Review Board "IRB" Approvals

e.g. institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approvals





# Sections of a Proposal ...



# NSF PROPOSAL INGREDIENTS



- Cover Sheet
- Project Summary (1 page)
- Project Description (15 pages)
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketches (for all senior personnel)
- Budget
- Budget Justification (5 pages)
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources
- Post-doctoral mentoring plan (if applicable)
- Data management plan



# Parts of an NSF Proposal

## Cover Sheet

Many of the boxes on the cover sheet are electronically prefilled as part of the FastLane login process.

COVER SHEET FOR PROPOSAL TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION					
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT/SOLICITATION NO./DUE DATE <b>NSF 16-509</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Exception to Deadline Date Policy		FOR NSF USE ONLY <b>NSF PROPOSAL NUMBER</b>
FOR CONSIDERATION BY NSF ORGANIZATION UNIT(S) (Indicate the most specific unit known, i.e. program, division, etc.) <b>DEB - Long-Term Ecological Research</b>					
DATE RECEIVED	NUMBER OF COPIES	DIVISION ASSIGNED	FUND CODE	DUNS# (Data Universal Numbering System) <b>0748118034567</b>	FILE LOCATION
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) OR TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) <b>530206152</b>		SHOW PREVIOUS AWARD NO. IF THIS IS <input type="checkbox"/> A RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> AN ACCOMPLISHMENT-BASED RENEWAL		IS THIS PROPOSAL BEING SUBMITTED TO ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IF YES, LIST ACRONYM(S)	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION TO WHICH AWARD SHOULD BE MADE <b>National Science Foundation</b>			ADDRESS OF Awardee ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE <b>National Science Foundation 4201 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, VA. 222301000</b>		
AWARDEE ORGANIZATION CODE (IF KNOWN) <b>4102852000</b>					
NAME OF PRIMARY PLACE OF PERF <b>ProdValid</b>			ADDRESS OF PRIMARY PLACE OF PERF, INCLUDING 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE <b>ProdValid AA.</b>		
IS AWARDEE ORGANIZATION (Check All That Apply) (See GPG II.C For Definitions) <input type="checkbox"/> SMALL BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> MINORITY BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> IF THIS IS A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL THEN CHECK HERE <input type="checkbox"/> FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION <input type="checkbox"/> WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS					
TITLE OF PROPOSED PROJECT <b>SE ProdValid Jenkins Test</b>					
REQUESTED AMOUNT \$ <b>4,444</b>	PROPOSED DURATION (1-60 MONTHS) <b>24</b> months	REQUESTED STARTING DATE <b>12/12/16</b>	SHOW RELATED PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL NO. IF APPLICABLE		
THIS PROPOSAL INCLUDES ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW <input type="checkbox"/> BEGINNING INVESTIGATOR (GPG I.G.2) <input type="checkbox"/> HUMAN SUBJECTS (GPG II.D.7) Human Subjects Assurance Number _____ Exemption Subsection _____ or IRB App. Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES (GPG II.C.1.e) <input type="checkbox"/> INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES: COUNTRY/COUNTRIES INVOLVED (GPG II.C.2.j) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> PROPRIETARY & PRIVILEGED INFORMATION (GPG I.D, II.C.1.d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COLLABORATIVE STATUS _____ <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC PLACES (GPG II.C.2.j) <input type="checkbox"/> VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (GPG II.D.6) IACUC App. Date _____ PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FUNDING MECHANISM <b>Research - other than RAPID or EAGER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Not a collaborative proposal					



# Parts of an NSF Proposal

## Project Summary Requirements:

Overview

Statement on Intellectual Merit

Statement of Broader Impacts

Special characters (e.g., formulas) may be uploaded as a PDF

## Project Description Addresses:

What you want to do

Why you want to do it

How you plan to do it

How you measure success

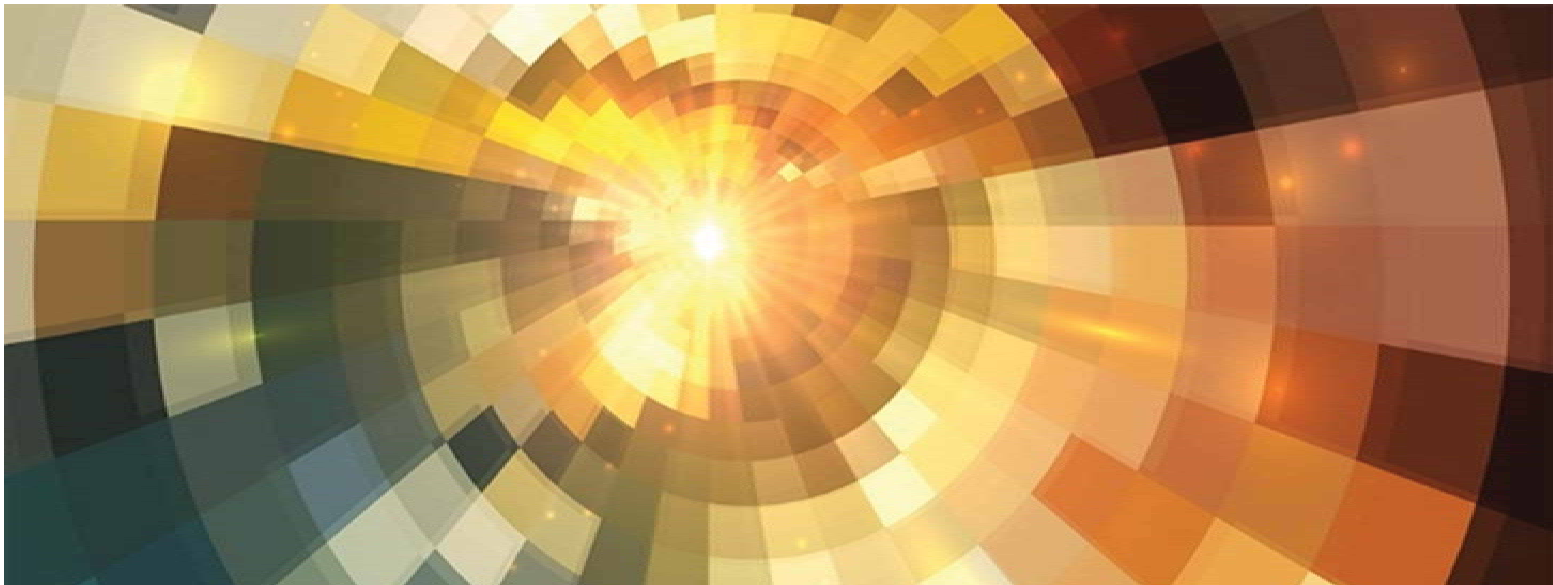
What are the benefits

Results from prior NSF support



# Parts of an NSF Proposal

The Project Description must contain separate sections labeled *Intellectual Merit* and *Broader Impacts*





# Budgetary Guidelines

Amounts should be:

- Realistic and reasonable
- Well-justified and should establish need
- Consistent w/program guidelines in solicitation and Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)



Eligible costs consist of:

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Travel
- Participant support
- Other (e.g., subawards, consultant and computer services, publications costs)
- Indirect costs (as appropriate)



# NSF Cost Sharing Policy

Inclusion of *voluntary committed* cost sharing is prohibited in the budget of solicited & unsolicited proposals.

Organizations may, at their own discretion, continue to contribute *voluntary uncommitted* cost sharing to NSF-sponsored projects as part of the section for Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources.



# Sections of an NSF Proposal

## Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources

Used to assess the adequacy of the organizational resources available to perform the effort proposed. Should not contain quantifiable financial information.

## Current and Pending Support

This section of the proposal requires reporting on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals from any funding source.



# Special Information and Supplementary Documentation

- Letters of collaboration (no letters of support)
- Postdoctoral mentoring plans
- Data management plans
- You should alert NSF officials to unusual circumstances that require special handling (i.e. proprietary information)
- Solicitations may specify what is and is not allowed to be submitted



# Mentoring for Postdoctoral Researchers

- Explicit description of the mentoring activities
- Must include a mentoring plan as a supplementary document (maximum one-page)
- For collaborative proposals, lead organization must submit a single mentoring plan for all postdoctoral researchers supported under the entire project.





# Data Management Plan Requirements

- All proposals are required to include, as a supplementary doc, a Data Management Plan of up to two pages.
- Plan should describe how the proposal will conform to NSF policy on dissemination and sharing of research results.
- A valid Data Management Plan may include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed, as long as a clear justification is provided.
- Plan will be reviewed as part of the Intellectual Merit and/or Broader Impacts of the proposal.



# Single Copy Documents

Some proposal documents are for “NSF Use Only” and are not provided to reviewers

- Authorization to deviate from proposal preparation requirements
- List of suggested reviewers to include or not to include
- Proprietary or privileged information
- Proposal certifications
- Information about collaborators and other affiliations



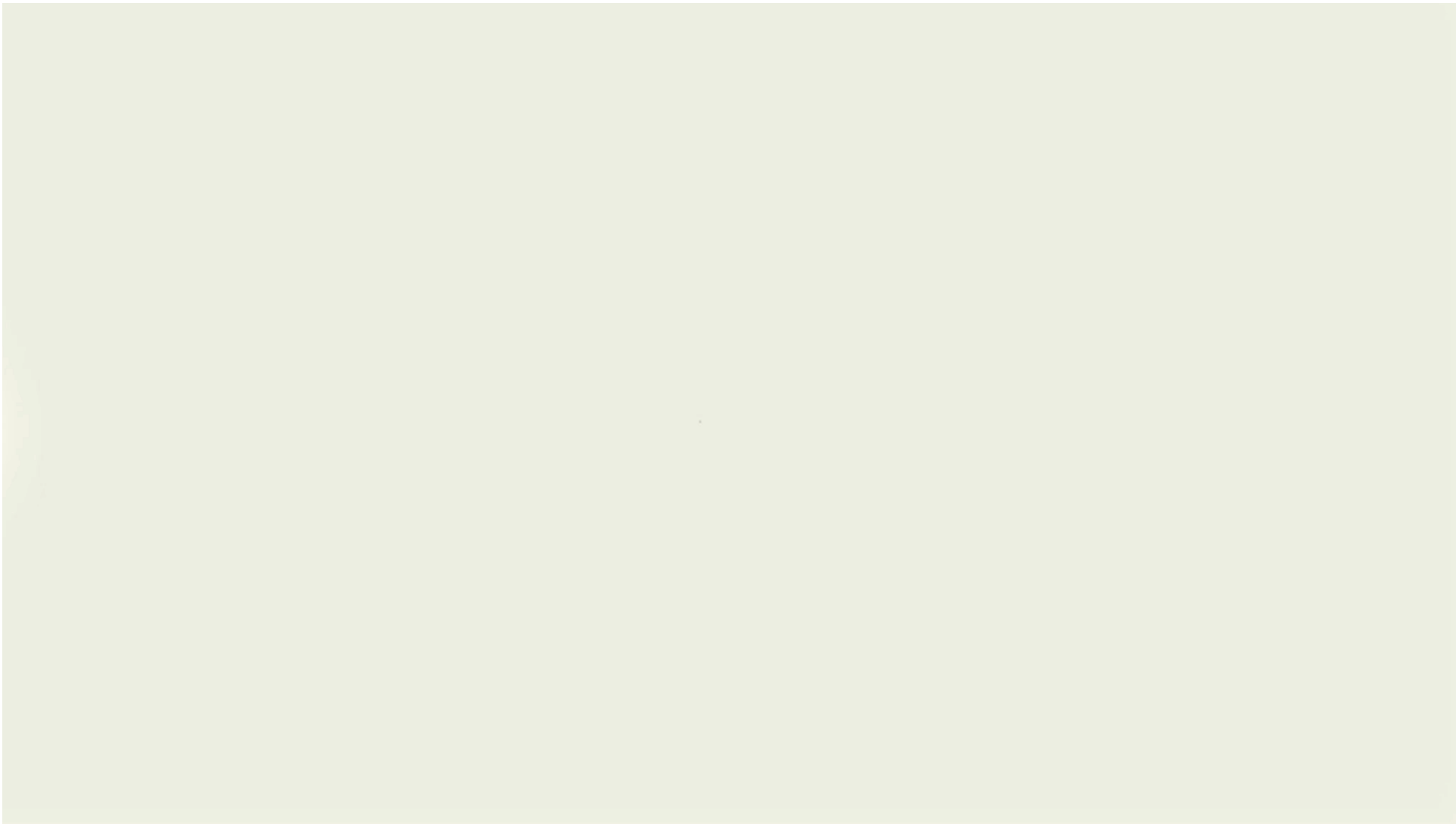
# Questions?



# The Merit Review Process



# MERIT REVIEW VIDEO





# NSF's Proposal & Award Process Timeline

Black Box?



# Merit Review Criteria

## **Intellectual Merit:**

the potential to advance knowledge

## **Broader Impacts:**

the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes



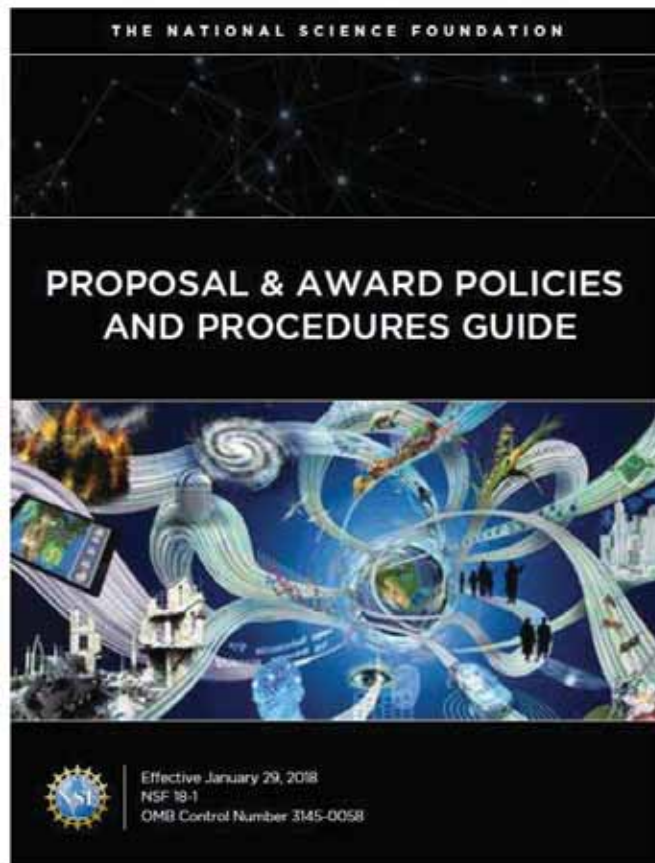
# When Preparing Proposals

- Read the funding opportunity; ask a Program Officer for clarifications if needed
- Address all the proposal review criteria
- Understand the NSF merit review process
- Avoid omissions and mistakes
- Check your proposal to verify that it is complete!
- Double Check that the proposal NSF receives is the one you intended to send



# Merit Review Guiding Principles & Criteria

The Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) contains a description of the Merit Review Criteria



## A. Merit Review Principles and Criteria

The National Science Foundation strives to invest in a robust and diverse portfolio of projects that creates new knowledge and enables breakthroughs in understanding across all areas of science and engineering research and education. To identify which projects to support, NSF relies on a merit review process that incorporates consideration of both the technical aspects of a proposed project and its potential to contribute more broadly to advancing NSF's mission "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes." NSF makes every effort to conduct a fair, competitive, transparent merit review process for the selection of projects.



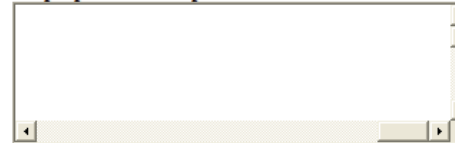
# Review Format in FastLane

- Reviewers provide feedback to NSF based on the Review Criteria and the Review Elements
- Review Criteria and Elements are available as reviewers provide feedback

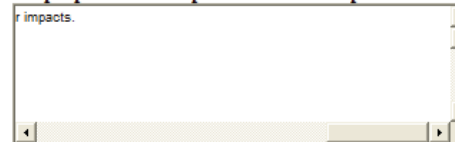
The following elements should be considered in the review for both criteria:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to
  - a. advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
  - b. benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or institution to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home institution or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

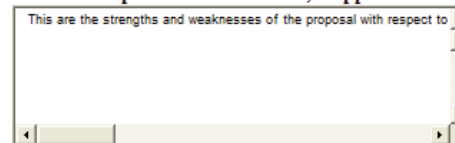
**In the context of the five review elements, please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to intellectual merit.**

A large, empty rectangular text box with a light beige background and a thin border. It has small navigation arrows (back, forward, up, down) in the corners, indicating it is a scrollable area for text input.

**In the context of the five review elements, please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to broader impacts.**

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**Please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to any additional solicitation-specific review criteria, if applicable.**

A large, empty rectangular text box with a light beige background and a thin border. It has small navigation arrows (back, forward, up, down) in the corners, indicating it is a scrollable area for text input.



# Over 2,000 proposals were RWR in FY 2014

## 6 most common reasons why

1. Not responsive to the PAPPG or program announcement/solicitation (960)
2. Does not meet an announced proposal deadline date and time (171)
3. It is inappropriate for NSF funding (74)
4. Duplicative or substantially similar to a proposal already under consideration (66)
5. Not substantively revised from a proposal that was previously reviewed and declined (37)
6. Duplicates another proposal that was already awarded (24)



# Types of Review



- *Ad Hoc*
  - Proposals are sent out for review
  - Some proposals may under go *ad hoc review only*
- Panel
  - Face-to-Face sessions conducted with reviewers. Held at NSF, or virtually via assistive technologies such as WebEx or BlueJeans
- Combination
  - Some proposals may undergo supplemental ad hoc reviews before or after a panel review
- Internal
  - Reviewed by NSF Program Officers



# How are Reviewers Selected?

- Three or more external reviewers per proposal are selected
- Types of Reviewers Recruited
  - Specific content expertise
  - General science or education expertise
- Sources of Reviewers
  - Former reviewers
  - Program Officer's knowledge of the research area
  - References listed in proposal
  - Recent professional society programs
  - S&E journal articles related to the proposal
  - Reviewer recommendations included in proposal



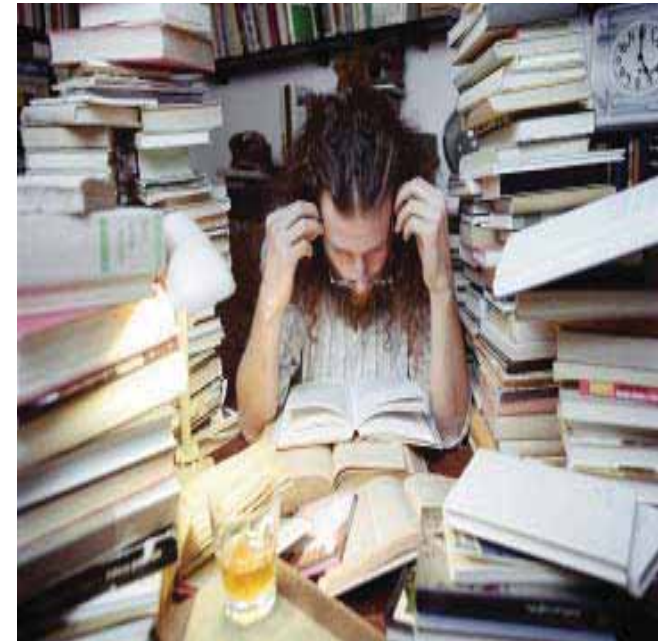
# What is the Role of the Reviewer?

- **Review all proposal material and consider**
  - The two NSF merit review criteria and any program specific criteria
  - Adequacy of the proposed project plan- including the budget, resources, and timeline
  - Priorities of the scientific field and of the NSF program
  - Potential risks and benefits of the project
- **Make independent written comments on the quality of the proposal content**



# What is the Role of the Review Panel?

- Discuss the merits of the proposal with the other panelists
- Write a summary based on that discussion
- Provide some indication of the relative merits of different proposals considered





# Why Serve on an NSF Panel?

- Gain first-hand knowledge of the merit review process
- Learn about common problems with proposals
- Discover proposal writing strategies
- Meet colleagues and NSF Program Officers managing the programs related to your research



# How Do I Become a Reviewer?

Contact the NSF Program Officer(s) of the program(s) that fit your expertise

- Introduce yourself as a strong potential reviewer based on your research experience
- Offer to send a 2-page CV with current contact information
- Stay in touch if you don't hear back right away



# Conflicts of Interest (COI)



What is a COI?

How we address conflict of interest

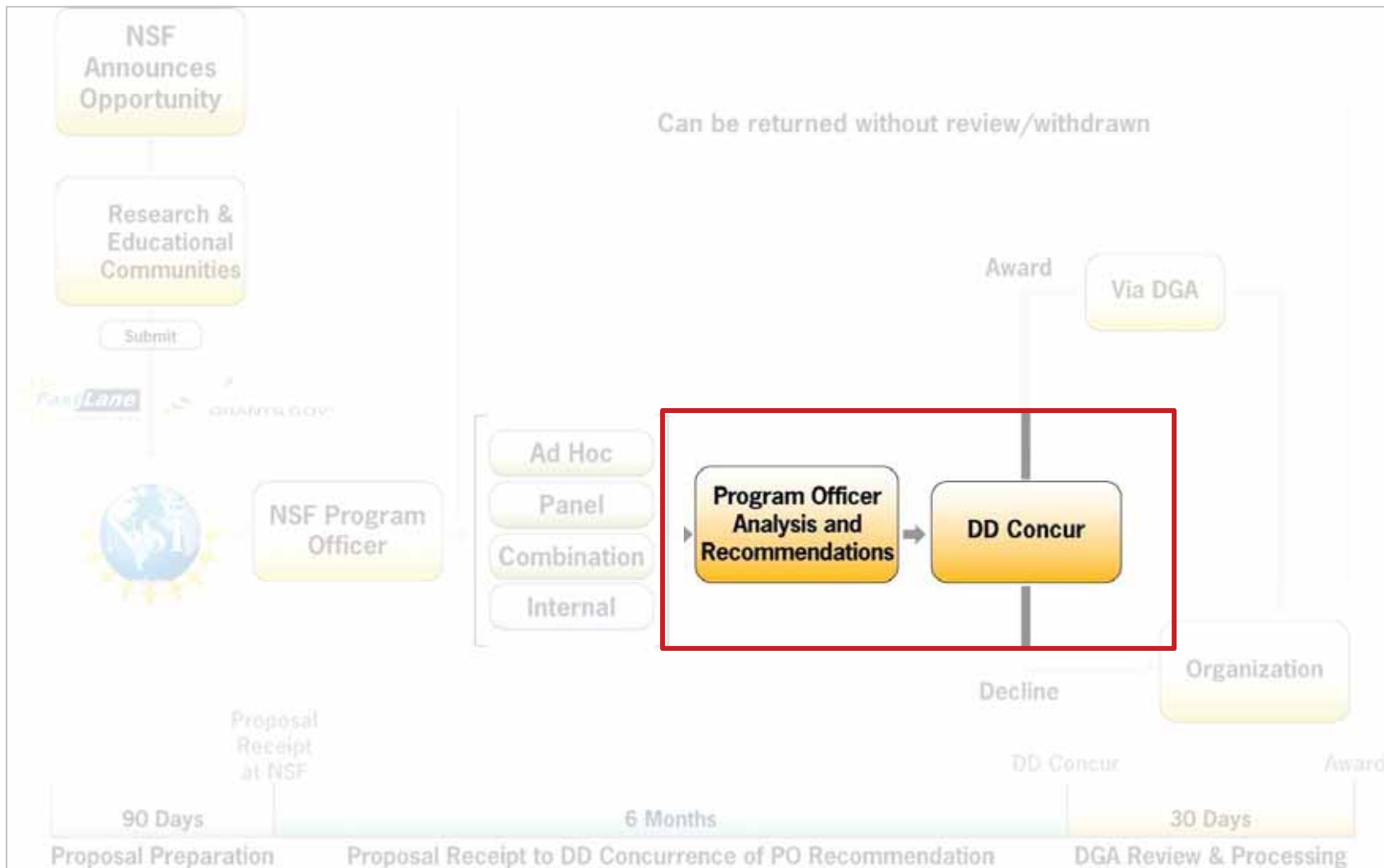
NSF checks and avoids COIs in the review process

Institutional COIs

Personal COIs



# Proposal Review and Processing



# Funding Decisions

## Reviews are Advisory to NSF

- The merit review process provides:
  - Review of the proposal and a recommendation on funding.
  - Feedback (strengths and weaknesses) to the proposers.
- NSF Program Officers make funding recommendations guided by program goals and portfolio considerations.
- NSF Division Directors either concur or reject the Program Officers' funding recommendations.





# Feedback from Merit Review

- Reviewer ratings (such as: E, V, G, F, P)
- Analysis of how well proposal addresses both review criteria: Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
- Proposal strengths and weaknesses
- Reasons for decline (if applicable)
- If you have any questions, contact cognizant Program Officer.



# Documentation from Merit Review

- Verbatim copies of individual reviews, excluding reviewer identities
- Panel summary or summaries  
panel review was used
- Context statement (usually)
- Program Officer to Principal Investigator comments (formal or informal, written, email or verbal) as necessary to explain a decision



# Examples of Reasons for Declines

- Not considered competitive based on merit review criteria and program office concurrence
- Flaws or issues identified by the Program Officer
- Funds were not adequate to fund all competitive proposals



# Revisions and Resubmissions

- Do the reviewers and the NSF Program Officer identify significant strengths in your proposal?
- Can you address the identified weaknesses?
- Can the proposal be **significantly** revised?
- Are there other ways your colleagues or you think a resubmission can be strengthened?



Questions?

Contact your cognizant Program Officer!



# NSF Reconsideration Process





# Possible Considerations for Funding a Competitive Proposal

- Addresses all review criteria
- Likely high impact
- Broadening participation
- Educational impact
- Impact on institution/state
- Special programmatic considerations (e.g. CAREER/RUI/EPSCoR)
- Other support for PI
- “Launching” versus “Maintaining”
- Portfolio balance



# For More Information on the NSF Merit Review Process

Go to NSF's Home Page ([www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov))

NSF

Research Areas Funding Awards Document Library News About NSF

Home > Budget Finance & Award Managem... > Institution and Award Support

Email Print Share

## Merit Review

Through its merit review process, the National Science Foundation (NSF) ensures that proposals submitted are reviewed in a fair, competitive, transparent, and in-depth manner. The merit review process is described in detail in Part I of the NSF [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) which provides guidance for the preparation and submission of proposals to NSF.

The goal of this Merit Review website is to help you better understand the NSF merit review process as well as identify resources for additional information (including applicable chapters in the PAPPG). Sections of this website include:

- [Phase I: Proposal Preparation and Submission](#)
- [Phase II: Proposal Review and Processing](#)
- [Phase III: Award Processing](#)
- [Non-Award Decisions and Transactions](#)
- [Merit Review Facts](#)
- [Why You Should Volunteer to Serve As An NSF Reviewer](#)
- [Merit Review FAQs](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Office of Budget Finance & Award Management (BFA)

Office of Budget, Finance, & Award Management >

Budget Division >

Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support >

Division of Financial Management >

Division of Grants & Agreements >

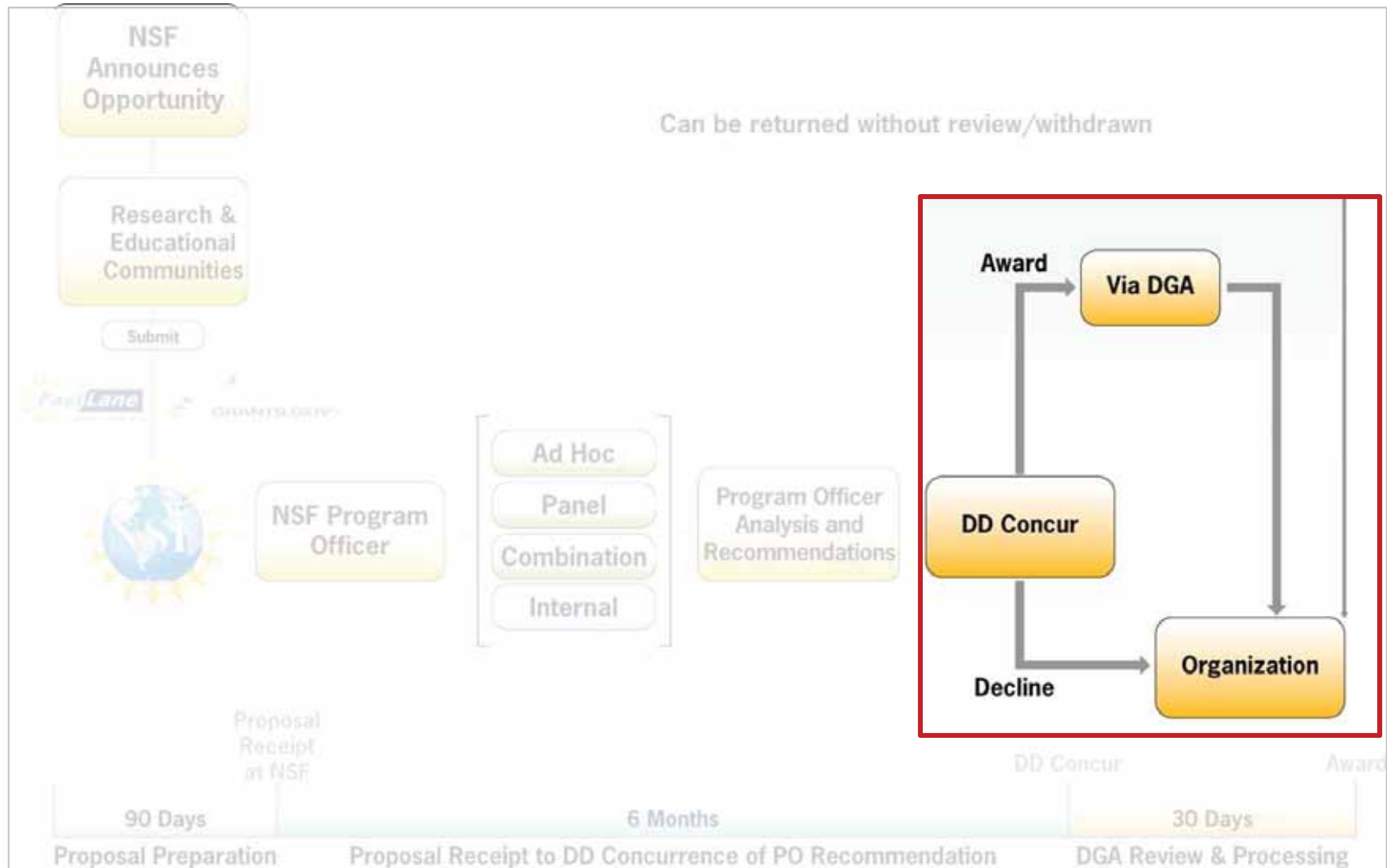
Division of Institution & Award Support v

CAAR Branch

Policy Office



# Proposal Review and Processing



# Ask Early, Ask Often!

Contact the cognizant Program Officer



# Questions?





# Faculty Early Career Development Program "CAREER"



[www.nsf.gov/career](http://www.nsf.gov/career)



# CAREER Awards

New Solicitation out soon

*Cross-disciplinary perspectives*

## Future Due Dates:

Third Wed	BIO, CISE, EHR	July 18, 2018
Third Thursday	ENG	July 19, 2018
Third Friday	GEO, MPS, SBE	July 20, 2018

[www.nsf.gov/career](http://www.nsf.gov/career)



# CAREER Awards

Foundation wide



Supports junior faculty

Research and education integration

PECASE

*(Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers)*  
eligibility



# CAREER Awards



Stable support for 5 years

NSF wide: 500+/year

> \$400K

# An eligible institution must be:

An academic institution in the U.S., its territories or possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that award degrees in fields supported by NSF.





# An eligible institution may also be:

Non-profit, non-degree-granting (e.g. a museum, observatory or lab) if the eligibility requirements of the PI are satisfied.

NSF encourages proposals from different institutional types, including minority serving and undergraduate institutions



# CAREER varies across NSF

Number of submitted CAREER proposals

Review and Funding methods

Other Proposals with which CAREERs compete



NSF CAREER Coordinating Committee  
Sets NSF-wide goals



# CAREER Proposals

Contact program manager liaison\* and ask about:

Expectations for scope of research and education

Assessment of 2-page departmental letter

Funding rate trend for regular proposals in program of interest



[http://www.nsf.gov/  
crssprgm/career/  
contacts.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp)



# Are CAREER awards right for you?



Yes, if:

Your proposed research is innovative, ambitious and within NSF's the purview of research and education supported

You have support from your department/ organization, mentors.

You are at the right stage of your career.



# CAREER Personnel and Budgets

Senior Personnel  
(Consultants,  
subawards,  
collaborators)

Academic year  
buyouts for teaching  
intensive institutions





# CAREER Departmental 2 Page Letter

- Statement of PI CAREER program eligibility
- Support for PI's proposed research and education activities
- Description of how the PIs career goals and responsibilities mesh with that of the organization and department
- Commitment to support professional development and mentoring of the PI
- NOT a letter of recommendation or endorsement of the PI or the research project



# CAREER Awards Urban Myths

“You cannot apply because you have another NSF award. . .”

“It is an entry program, so you must first apply to CAREER. . .”

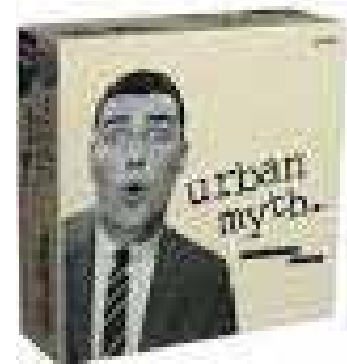
“I need to see a successful proposal to write a successful proposal. . .”

“You have no chance, if you are not from a research intensive institution.. .”

“CAREER proposals are more portable than other NSF funding.”

“The education component does not matter. . .”

“I read on the web that to succeed, I have to....”



# Traits of a Successful CAREER Proposal



High quality -- This is a highly competitive program!

Matches disciplinary program expectations

Includes an appropriate scope of activities for a 5-year plan, not one's whole life!

Goes outside the education box of regular research proposals in the field

Strikes a balance between doable research activities and more risky pursuits

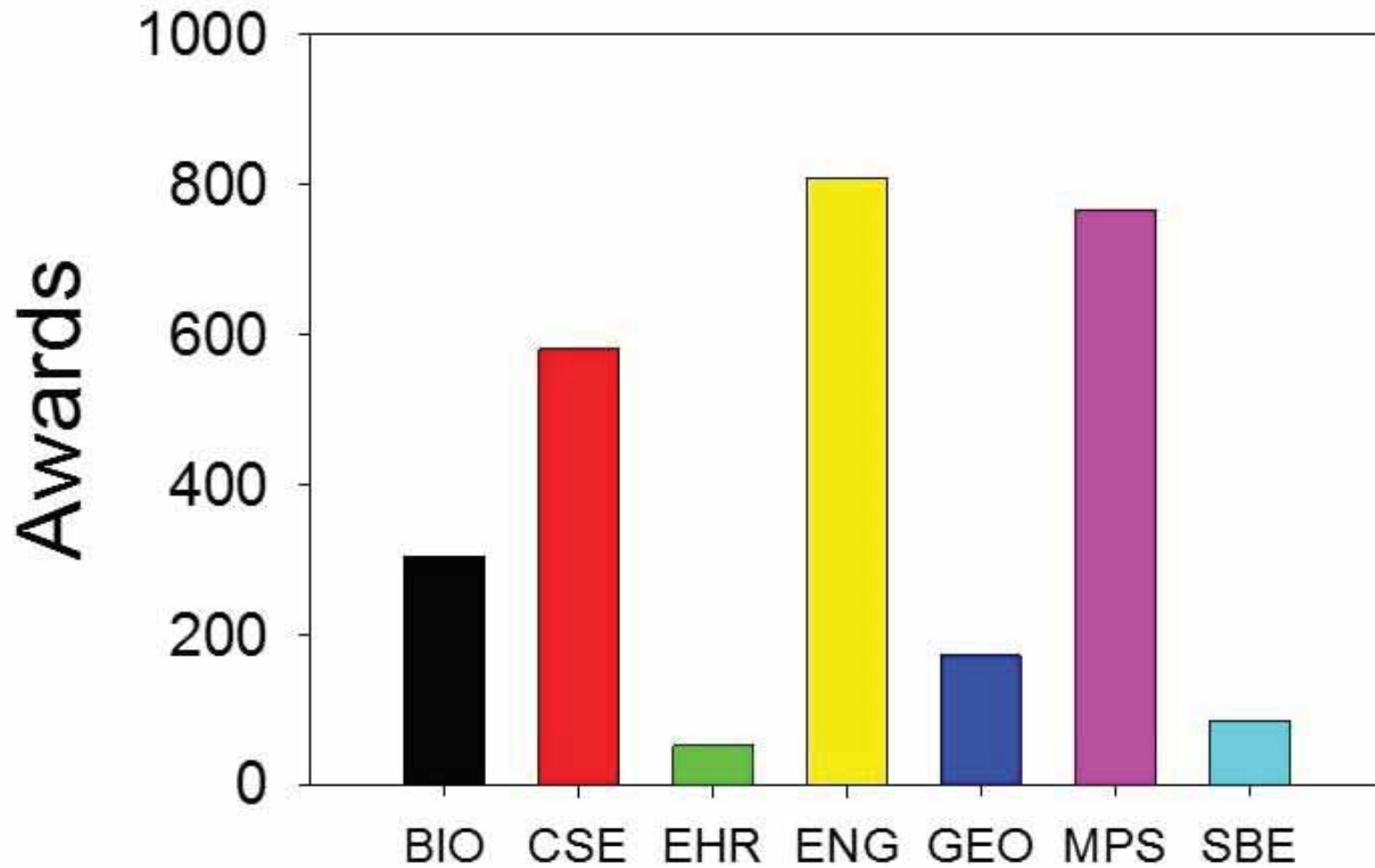


# PECASE: Presidential Early Career Awards for Science and Engineering



# Career Awards By Directorate

## 2011 to 2016





# Questions?



# NSF AND THE ECONOMY



# Lunch Break



# JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY



# Crosscutting & NSF-wide Opportunities





# What Is meant by crosscutting?

Sponsored by >1 NSF unit....

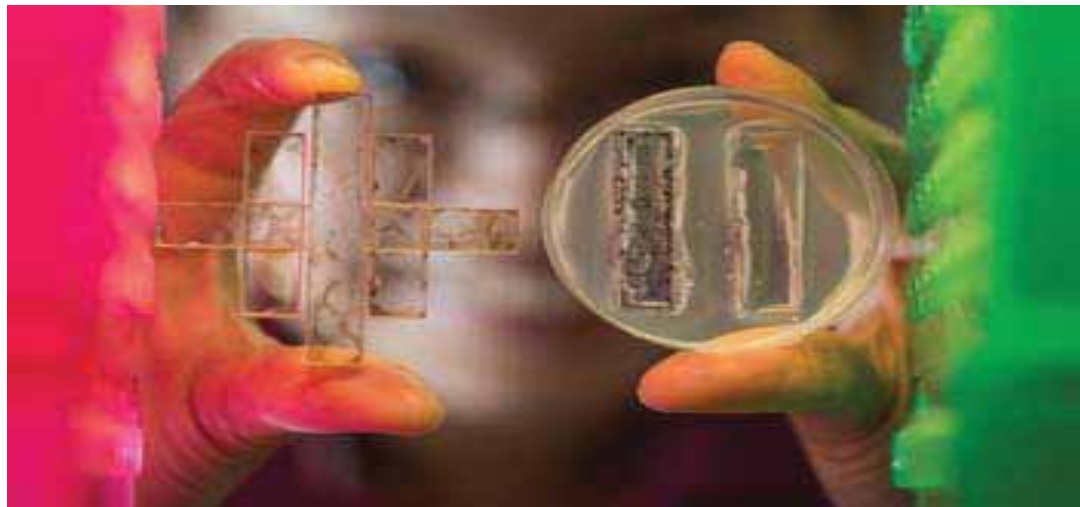
Cuts across NSF in different ways...

Collaborative with other  
U.S. government agencies...



# Types of Crosscutting Activities

- Cross-disciplinary (10 Big Ideas)
- Broadening participation or People-oriented
- Fellowships/Opportunities Education & Training
- Building Research Communities
- Infrastructure
- Data Sciences
- Translational
- International



# Cross-Disciplinary Initiatives

10 BIG IDEAS



INFEWS



# Ten Big Ideas for Future NSF Investments

## RESEARCH IDEAS



Harnessing Data for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science and Engineering

Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Shaping the Future



Navigating the New Arctic

Windows on the Universe: The Era of Multi-messenger Astrophysics



The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution

Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype



## PROCESS IDEAS

Mid-scale Research Infrastructure



NSF 2026



Growing Convergent Research at NSF



NSF INCLUDES: Enhancing STEM through Diversity and Inclusion

# INFEWS: Innovation at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems



Food, energy and water systems are interrelated

- 10 percent of US energy is associated with food
- 40 percent of water withdrawals are power plant cooling
- 30 percent of water withdrawals are for irrigation
- 3 percent of electricity is used for pumping, treating, and transporting water

**INFEWS includes a central competition**

**Goal is to build a community of interdisciplinary scholars**

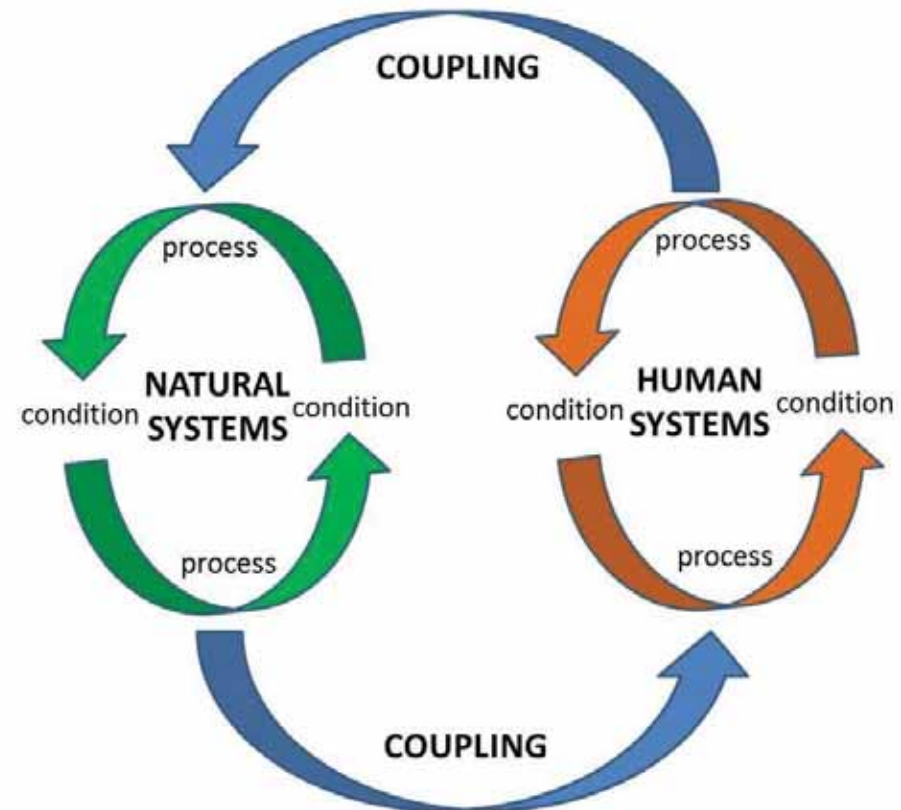
[https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=505241](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505241)





# Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH)

- Emphasis is placed on research on questions requiring deep integration of natural and human systems.
- Collaboration between BIO, SBE, and GEO.
- Projects must address all four components highlighted in the figure.



# The Central INFEWS Competition

Requires attention to food, energy and water systems

Requires involvement from disciplines supported by 3 directorates

Requires a systems framework

Proposals go to one of three tracks:

- Modelling

- Decision support

- Solutions toward sustainability



Maximum funding: \$2.5 M for 3 years, total

Look for our next solicitation in Spring FY 2018 for Fall deadline.



# Broadening Participation

**INCLUDES**

**ADVANCE**

**HBCU-UP, EiR**

**HSI**



# INCLUDES

Inclusion across the Nation of Communities  
of Learners of Underrepresented  
Discoverers in Engineering and Science





# INCLUDES



- \*Collaborative Infrastructure
- \*Networked-relationships
- \*Talent from all sectors \*STEM workforce
- \*Spur a national conversation for “bold visions”

- Launch Pilots: planning for partners to share goals and purposes.
- Alliances: leverage pilots adding new partners.
- Backbone organizations: provide increased communications, interoperability, coordination, support and accountability for the Network of Alliances.
- On-Ramps – See DCL NSF 17-111

Deadlines Nov. 13, 2017 and April 16, 2018





# ADVANCE: Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers



## Goals:

Strategies to undertake organizational change to address gender diversity issues in STEM

Systemic approaches to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic STEM careers.

Contribute to and inform the general knowledge base on gender equity in the academic STEM disciplines.



## **ADVANCE – COMPONENTS**

**COMPETITION WILL RUN EVERY OTHER YEAR**  
**INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION**

Preliminary Proposals – April 2019

Full Proposals – January 2020

## **ADAPTION**

Letter of Intent – August 9, 2017

Full proposal – September 13, 2017

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

Letter of Intent – December 2018

Full proposal – January 2020



# Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program

## HBCU-UP



Research Initiation Awards  
< 3 years, < \$300K  
Broadening Participation  
Research Projects  
< 3 years, < \$350K



# HBCU Excellence in Research (EiR)



September 19, 2017 Dear Colleagues Letter

HBCU Excellence in Research, Webinar, Dec. 11, 2017

<https://www.nsf.gov/ehr/Pubs/HBCUEIR.pdf>





# NSF organizations participating in EiR:

**BIO CISE ENG GEO MPS SBE OIA**

## Types of Awards:

Collaborative projects of up to \$1,000,000 to build and support the development of research capacity at HBCUs.

Research projects of up to \$500,000 to support research by individual PIs.



# Hispanic-Serving Institutions

## HSI Program



**DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER: June 6, 2017**

**SOLICITATION NSF 18-524**

**FULL PROPOSAL DUE DATE: March 6, 2018**

[HSI Program Technical Assistance Webinars](#)  
[Jan. 4, 2018 & Jan. 17, 2018](#)  
[Available online](#)





# Fellowships and Opportunities

GRFP  
GRIP  
GROW  
PRFs



# Graduate Research Fellowship Program



## Goals

- Select, recognize, and financially support early in their careers individuals with demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers
- Broaden participation in S&E of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans





## Key Elements

Five Year Award – \$138,000/Fellow

Three years of support

\$34,000 Stipend per year

\$12,000 Educational allowance to institution

Career Life Balance (family leave)

Supercomputer access: XSEDE

Professional Development Opportunities

 : International Research

 : Federal Internships

*Recent Change: Graduate students are limited to only 1 application to the GRFP, submitted either in the 1<sup>st</sup> year or in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of graduate school.*



# Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide





# Graduate Research Internship Program



 <b>U.S. Department of Agriculture</b>	 <b>U.S. Department of the Interior</b>
 <b>U.S. Department of Commerce</b>	 <b>U.S. Department of Transportation</b>
 <b>U.S. Department of Defense</b>	 <b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>
 <b>U.S. Department of Education</b>	 <b>Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President</b>
 <b>U.S. Department of Energy</b>	 <b>National Aeronautics and Space Administration</b>
 <b>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</b>	 <b>National Science Foundation</b>
 <b>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</b>	 <b>Smithsonian Institution</b>





## RESOURCES:

Solicitation and links [www.nsf.gov/grfp](http://www.nsf.gov/grfp)

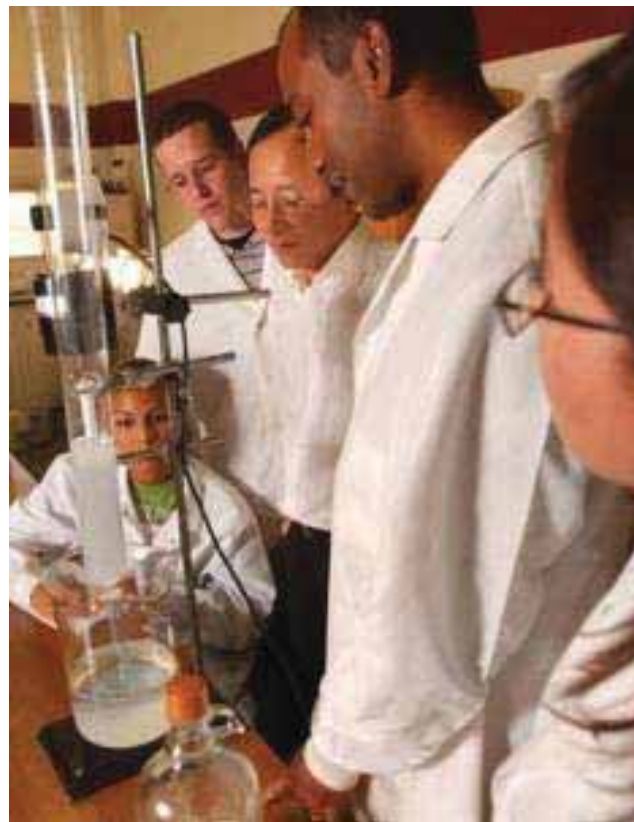
NSF GRFP FastLane

Website [www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp](http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp)

Application, guides, announcements,  
FAQs GRFP Website, [www.nsfgrfp.org](http://www.nsfgrfp.org)

Current & former Fellows 866-NSF-GRFP,  
[info@nsfgrfp.org](mailto:info@nsfgrfp.org)

To be a reviewer: <https://nsfgrfp.org/panelists>





# Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

- Allows Postdocs to serve as their own PI
- Up to 2 years of funding
- Choice of institution and mentor
- Must be US Citizen or permanent resident
- Provides both a Stipend and an Allowance (amounts vary by division and directorate)
- Allowance used for:
  - Benefits
  - Travel
  - Publications
  - Research expenses



# Integrating Research and Education Training

REU

NRT

RET

RUI, ROA, PUI



# Research Experiences for Undergraduates



## Goals:

- Initiate and conduct projects that engage a number of undergraduate students in research.
- Involve in research students who might not otherwise have the opportunity, particularly those from academic institutions where research programs are limited.

A screenshot of the National Science Foundation (NSF) website. The top navigation bar includes 'FUNDING', 'AWARDS', 'DISCOVERIES', 'NEWS', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'STATISTICS', 'ABOUT NSF', and 'FASTLANE'. The main content area is titled 'Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)'. It includes a 'NOTE ON THE PROPOSAL DEADLINE FOR REU SITES' section with two due dates: August 27, 2014 (for Antarctica access) and May 22, 2015 (for all other REU sites). There are also sections for 'CONTACTS' and 'PROGRAM GUIDELINES'. The left sidebar contains various links related to funding and proposals.



# NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program



The **NRT Program** encourages the development of innovative models for STEM graduate training

- NRT supports training STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary research areas
- NRT supports professional development to foster an inclusive workforce ready to enter diverse STEM career

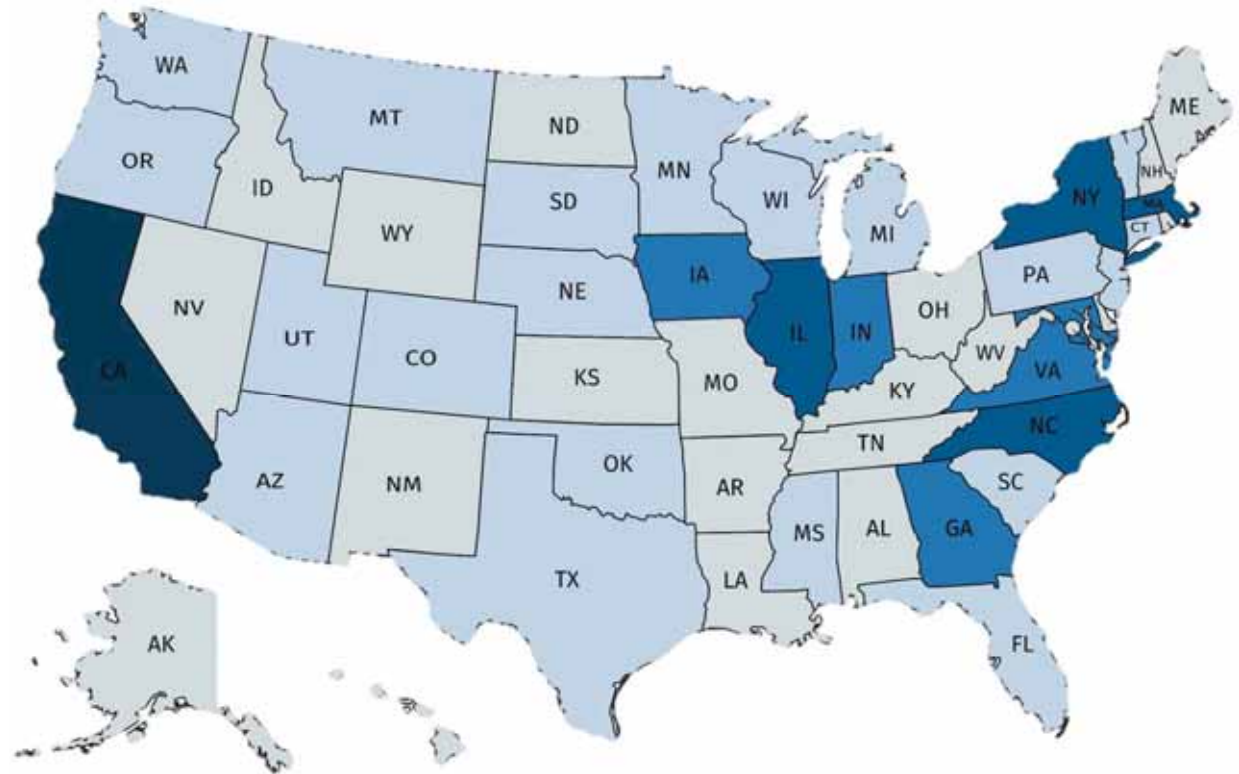


# NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program

## Awards

51 Funded Projects

30 States

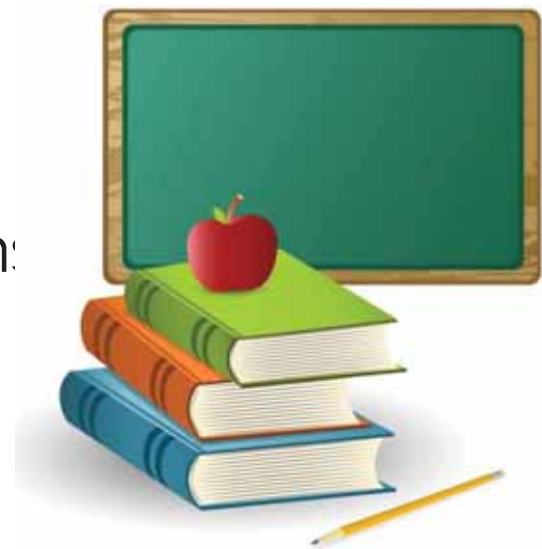




# Research Experiences for Teachers

GOAL: Enable K-12 teachers and community college faculty to engage in STEM research and then adapt knowledge into their teaching.

- RET Sites and Supplements
- May be included in REU proposals
- Check Directorates for specific mechanisms:



# Support for Undergraduates RUI, ROA for PUIs

RUIs and ROAs support research by faculty members at PUIs.

PUIs = accredited institutions that award Associate's, Bachelor's, and/or Master's degrees but have not awarded > 20 Ph.D./D.Sci. degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years.

ALL NSF directorates evaluate and fund RUIs and ROAs

They are funded within R & E program allocations



Directorate contacts found at : [http://www.nsf.gov/crsspgrm/rui\\_roa/contacts.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/crsspgrm/rui_roa/contacts.jsp)



# Building Research Communities

RCNs

Workshop proposals



# Research Coordination Networks (RCNs)

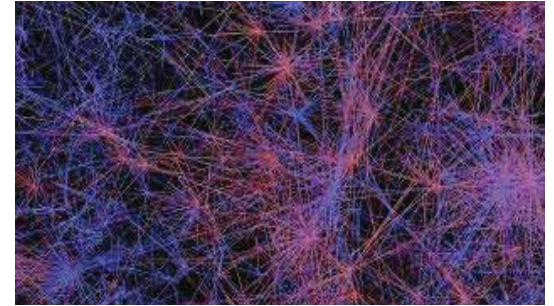
Goal is to advance a field or create new directions by supporting groups of investigators to communicate and coordinate research, training, and educational activities across boundaries.

Does not support primary research activities  
Deadline varies by program  
Not all programs accept RCN proposals

Contact the relevant program before submitting RCN proposal

Program Solicitation – NSF 15-594

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17594/nsf17594.htm>



# Workshops

One mechanism to bring together different components of the research community (sectors, fields, nationalities) to address common areas of interest

- Discuss research directions, gaps, techniques, advances, approaches
- Share ideas and best practices
- Build connections and identify potential areas of collaboration
- Promote student/early career participation

Contact the relevant program before submitting a workshop proposal





# Infrastructure



MRI

STC

ERC



# Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)

- Acquisition or development of research instrumentation (incl. cyber-infrastructure)
- Shared-use/multi-user instrumentation for research and training
- Academic and private sector partnerships

## FY 2018 MRI Competition

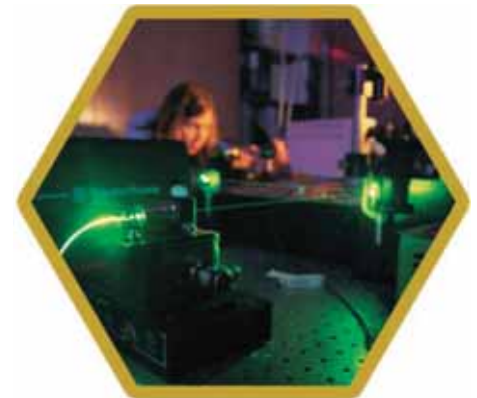
- Solicitation NSF 18-513 (significant changes from prior years)





# Science and Technology Centers, Integrative Partnerships (STCs)

- Promote frontier investigations across and/or within NSF-supported S&E area
- Advance discovery and innovation through the integration of cutting-edge research, excellence in education, diversity, and transfer of new knowledge
- 12 current STCs across all NSF disciplines – coordinated and co-managed by IA w other NSF Directorates



# OIA Contacts

## ➤ NSF EPSCoR

<http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/epscor/index.jsp>

Tel: - 703-292-8683; Cognizant Program Officers

## ➤ MRI

<https://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri/>

Randy Phelps, (703) 292-8040, [rphelps@nsf.gov](mailto:rphelps@nsf.gov)

## ➤ STC

<https://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/stc/>

Dragana Brzakovic, (703) 292-8040, [dbrzakov@nsf.gov](mailto:dbrzakov@nsf.gov)



# Engineering Research Centers (ERCs)

Funded for 10 years at ~ \$4M/year (a 5-year initial award / 5-year renewal)

Multi-university, cross-disciplinary academic collaboration

Driven by leading edge complex engineering challenge with significant potential societal impact

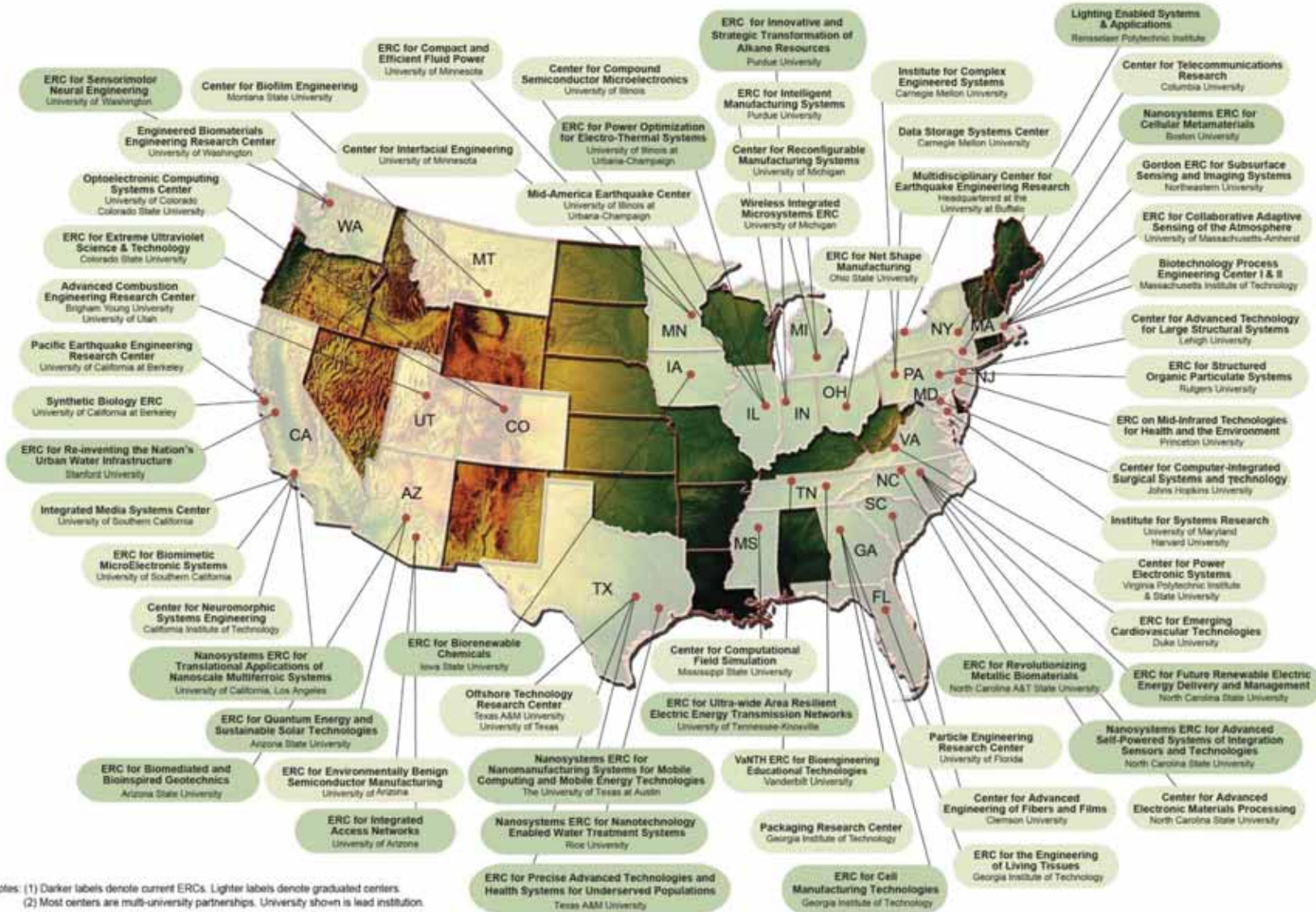
Additional support provided by industry, and other partners

Strong integration of research, education and workforce development, diversity and culture of inclusion and innovation ecosystem.





# Engineering Research Centers (ERCs)



# Engineering Research Centers (ERCs)

14 active ERCs -- 4 new ERCs awarded in FY17

- Innovative and Strategic Transformation of Alkane Resources, *Purdue University*



- Cell Manufacturing Technologies, *Georgia Tech*



- Cellular Metamaterials, *Boston University*



- Precise Advanced Technologies and Health Systems For Underserved Populations, *Texas A&M University*



- NASEM's report (2017):  
"A New Vision for Center-Based Engineering Research"



# Data and Cyber Sciences



Big Data

NRI

SaTC







# National Robotics Initiative 2.0: Ubiquitous Collaborative Robots (NRI-2.0)

Expands the scale and variety of collaborative interactions.



FY 17 Participants  
CISE, ENG, SBE,  
EHR, USDA/NIFA  
DOE/EM, DOD

Open to US universities and colleges, as well as non-profit, non-academic organizations





# SaTC

## Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace

NSF's flagship program for research in cybersecurity

Multiple NSF directorates: CISE, EHR, ENG, MPS, SBE

U.S. colleges & universities, also open to US non-profits, and sometimes for-profits

- Proposal designations:
  - Core
  - Education
  - Secure, Trustworthy, Assured and Resilient Semiconductors and Systems (STARSS)
  - Transition to Practice (TTP)



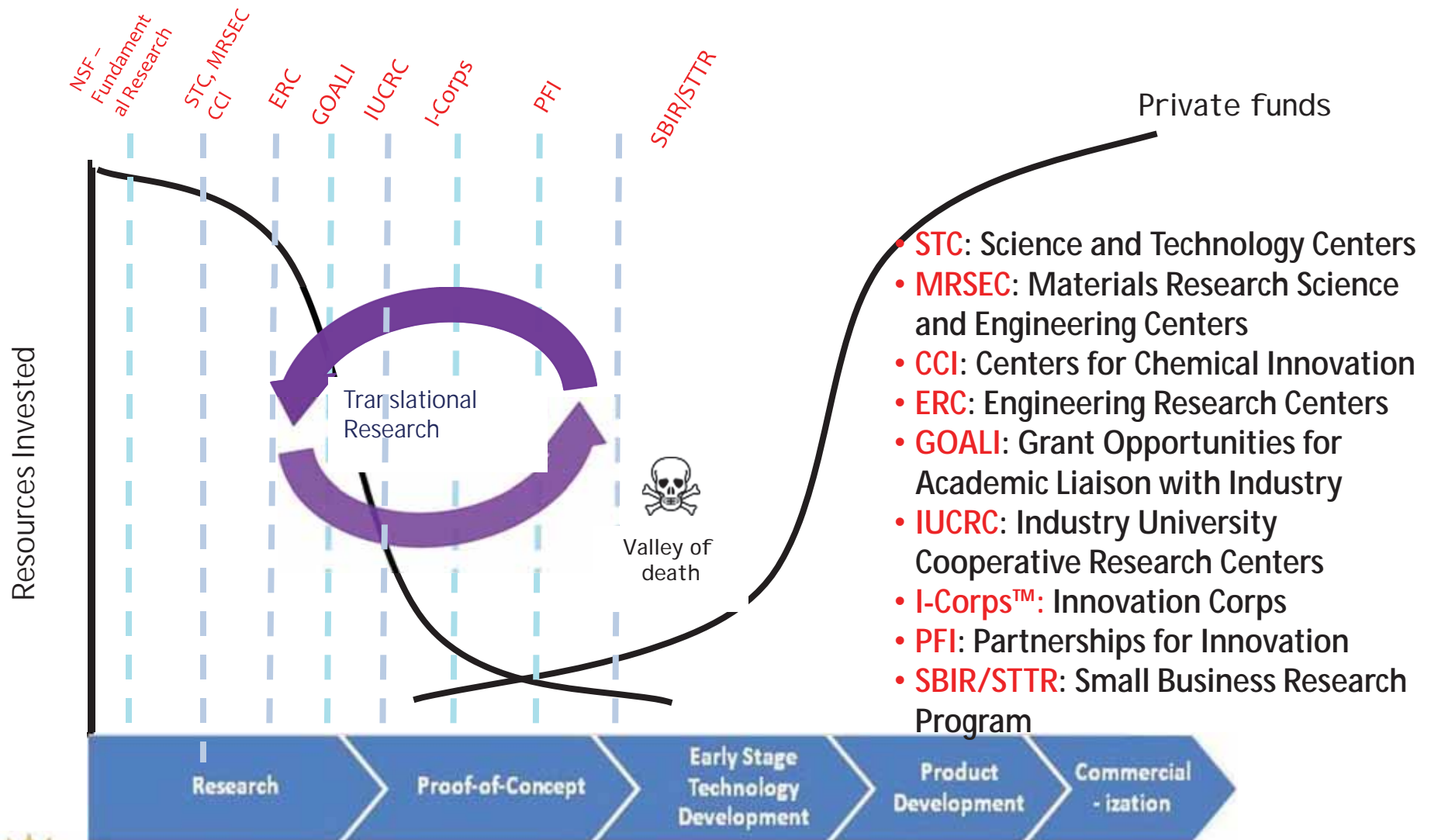
# Translational Research



## Partnerships for Innovation



# Technology Translation





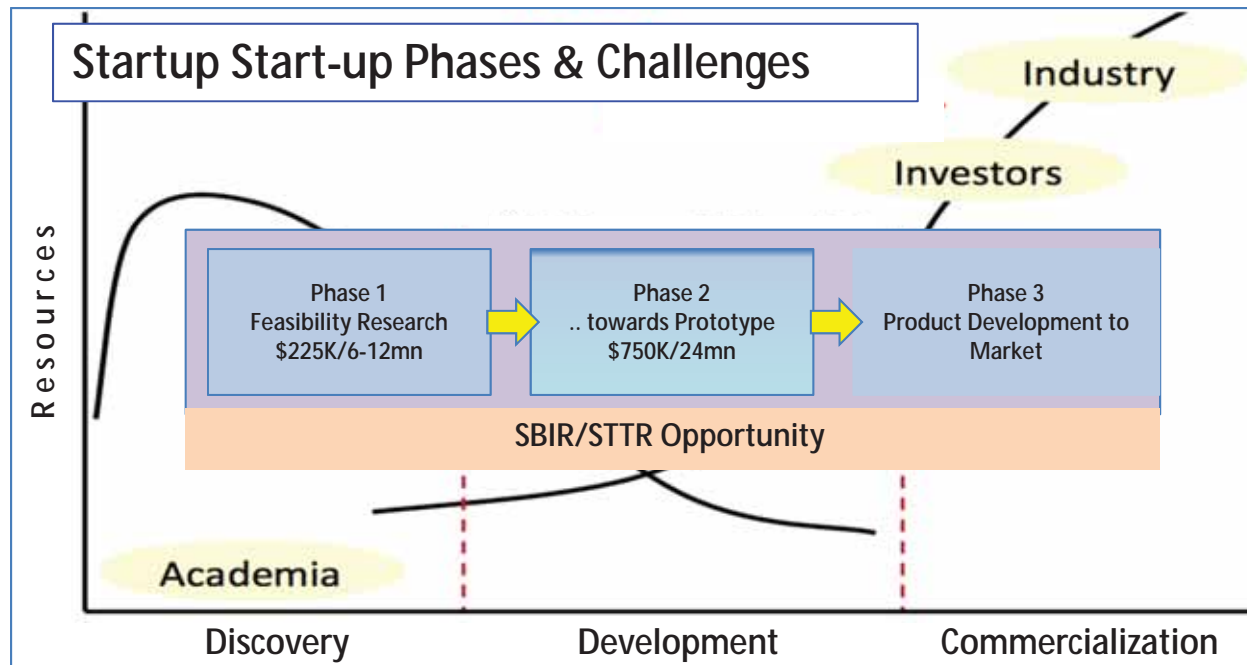
# America's Seed Fund powered by NSF

## SBIR/STTR Program





# NSF SBIR/STTR Program





# Who and What We Fund

## Too early for SBIR/STTR Funding?

If you have prior NSF funding...consider two other NSF programs:



## Partnerships for Innovation

For more info: [sbir@nsf.gov](mailto:sbir@nsf.gov)  
[seedfund.nsf.gov](http://seedfund.nsf.gov)  
[@NSFSBIR](https://twitter.com/NSFSBIR)



# Partnership for Innovation (PFI)

Support NSF-sponsored research and technologies with *potential for accelerated commercialization*; support proof-of-concept work, and prototype development

Sustainable partnerships and multi-disciplinary innovation ecosystems

Professional development, mentoring on entrepreneurship and technology translation; broaden participation



# Key Program Highlights

Solicitation NSF 18-511 was issued in response to the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law No: 114-329)

- Replaces and consolidates PFI-AIR and PFI-BIC programs
- Expands list of eligible organizations
- Two Tracks:
  - PFI-Technology Translation (**PFI-TT**).
  - PFI-Research Partnerships (**PFI-RP**).

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18511/nsf18511.htm>





**CORPS**  
NSF Innovation Corps



# Why I-Corps™?

Most academic spinouts fail  
because they develop  
something

**NO ONE CARES ABOUT**





# Why I-Corps™?

Most academic spinouts fail  
because they develop  
something

**NO ONE CARES ABOUT**

Do customers  
want  
something  
more efficient?

or maybe  
just  
cheaper?

or just  
smaller?

How do they  
adopt new  
technologies  
?

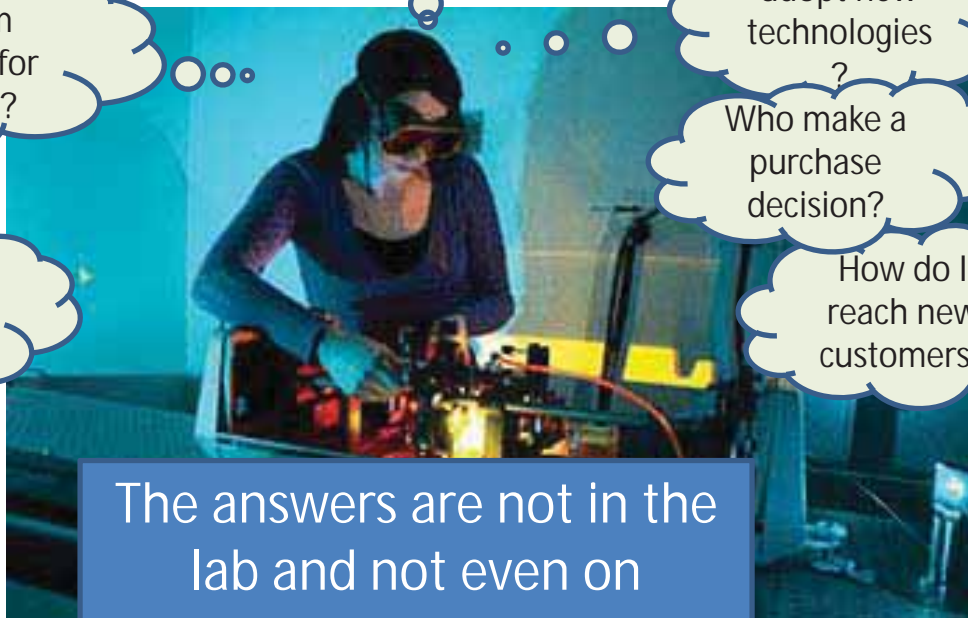
What problem  
does this solve for  
my customers?

Is that a big  
problem?

or maybe  
just  
inconvenient  
?

Who make a  
purchase  
decision?

How do I  
reach new  
customers?



The answers are not in the  
lab and not even on  
campus



# What is I-Corps™?

I-Corps™ gives \$50k for your team to travel to meet with  
**OVER 100 POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS**  
and partners

7 week intensive training program to  
**GET OUT OF THE LAB**  
to learn how to actually  
**EVALUATE MARKET OPPORTUNITY**



# Interested?

Want to learn more?



I-Corps™ website:

[www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/i-corps/teams.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/i-corps/teams.jsp)

Monthly webinars – details on the website

Program Officers:

Steve Konsek: [skonsek@nsf.gov](mailto:skonsek@nsf.gov)

Cindy WalkerPeach: [crwalker@nsf.gov](mailto:crwalker@nsf.gov)

Solicitation on the Teams website:

[www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/i-corps/teams.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/i-corps/teams.jsp)

FAQ: [www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17083/nsf17083.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17083/nsf17083.jsp)  
or search “NSF I-Corps Teams FAQ”





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## Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)

Invests in high-tech small businesses and collaborations between academia and industry to transform discoveries into innovative commercial technologies with societal benefits.

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### Announcements

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Webinar [Read More >](#)

IIP Welcomes New I-Corps™ Program  
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NSF Joins SBIR Road Tour; Encourages  
Startups Nationwide to Apply [Read More >](#)

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### News



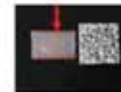
Future consumer technology from NSF at CES  
2018 Eureka Park

DECEMBER 20, 2017



NSF expands entrepreneurship training for tech  
startups at six I-Corps™ nodes

NOVEMBER 15, 2017



Integrated lab-on-a-chip uses smartphone to  
quickly detect multiple pathogens

OCTOBER 9, 2017

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# Questions?





# Directorate Breakout Sessions



**Thank you for  
participating in NSF Day!**

*Please share candid feedback  
and turn in your evaluation form*

