Faculty Early Career Development program

CAREER part 1

C. Susan Weiler
NSF/OIA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research EPSCoR
Support for New Investigators

• All NSF programs support new investigators as part of the regular (“core”) research competitions.

• About 2/3rds of new investigators are supported by the “core” programs.

• Some Directorates have special programs for new investigators (e.g., BIO Research Initiation Awards, BRIGE-Broadening Participation Initiation Grants in Engineering)

• Faculty Early-Career Development (CAREER) Program
  – Most prestigious awards to help a junior faculty member develop activities that can effectively integrate research and education within the context of his/her organization.
The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. Such activities should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research.

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503214
Goals of the CAREER Program
(NSF 15-057)

• Five years of stable support (≤400K in most Directorates, BIO is ≤ 500K) to allow the career development of outstanding new teacher-scholars in the context of the mission of their organization.

• Build a foundation for a lifetime of integrated contributions to research and education.

• Increase participation of those traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering.

• Incentives to Universities to value the integration of research and education.

• Awardees may be selected for the Presidential Early-Career Awards in Science and Engineering (PECASE).
Eligible institutions:

Academic institution in the U.S., its territories or possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that award degrees in fields supported by NSF.
Eligible institution may also be:

- Non-profit, non-degree-granting (e.g. 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 **vary** widely across NSF

- **Review and Funding methods vary** according to Directorate and Division practices

- **Proposals may compete with other research proposals** in the most appropriate research program

- CAREER Coordinating Committee members serve as liaison between the programs and the Directorate and set NSF-wide goals (solicitation).
  
  *see CAREER website for names of committee and abstracts of CAREER awards*
2:30 – 3:30 pm

• Presentation on CAREER
• Suggestions for proposal development
• Q & A

In the interim, **SIGN UP for NSF e-mails:**

Look for the “see all NSF social media” at nsf.gov and click on the “e-mail” icon. You can select anything and everything that is posted on nsf.gov and receive it the second it is posted! News, new solicitations, jobs.......
Faculty Early Career Development program

CAREER part 2

C. Susan Weiler
NSF/OIA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research EPSCoR
CAREER Awards: Read the Solicitation!

Solicitation 15-555

Look for new solicitation in FY 17

Due Dates:    July 20, 2016  BIO, CISE, EHR
              July 21, 2016  ENG
              July 22, 2016  GEO, MPS, SBE

http://www.nsf.gov/career
Proposal Writing
Before You Place Pen to Paper

• Find an appropriate “home” for the proposal
  - Search the Award Database
  - Investigate Program Websites
  - Read Appropriate Solicitation
  - Contact the Program Director

• Read the solicitation during all stages of preparation!

• How to prepare your Proposal [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/preparing/]

• Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPP)
  guidance on proposal preparation and submission, and award management.
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 and CAREER proposals in the program of interest

see

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 have interest in education activities beyond position’s expectations;

You are at the right stage of your career.
CAREER Departmental 2 Page Letter

- Statement that PI is eligible for CAREER program
- 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 Personnel and Budgets

YES

Consultants, subawards, unpaid collaborators

Academic year buyouts for teaching-intensive institutions

-- Size varies by Directorate and Program;
   ASK about budget expectations before you submit!

NO

Co-PI, senior personnel
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 goals

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

Cite relevant education literature to show you know the concerns in your field

Balance between doable research activities and more risky pursuits
PECASE: Presidential Early Career Awards for Science and Engineering
CAREER Proposals by Directorate

Year: 2004 to 2010

Directorates: BIO, CISE, ENG, GEO, MPS, SBE, EHR

Chart showing the number of CAREER proposals by year and directorate.
CAREER AWARDS BY DIRECTORATE
2011 to 2016
CAREER Success Rate by DIR

Graph showing CAREER success rates for different disciplines (BIO, CISE, ENG, GEO, MPS, SBE, EHR) across different years (2004-2010). The graph displays the percentage success rate for each discipline over the years.
CAREER AWARDS BY DIRECTORATE
over time
CAREER AWARD AMOUNTS BY DIRECTORATE
over time, to date
CAREER Awards Resources:

• Program Solicitation - NSF 15-555

• Frequently Asked Questions - NSF 15-057

• CAREER Directorate/Division Contacts
  http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp

• Links to recent CAREER and PECASE awards
  Posted on NSF program webpages
Questions?