BECOMING A NSF PROGRAM OFFICER

Clemson Office of Research Development
Speaker Series
2-7-18
Overview

- A Brief Introduction to NSF
- My Journey
- Why you might want to serve?
Introduction to NSF

- Founded in 1950
- FY17 budget $7.5 billion
- ~2100 employees
- ~200 rotators
My Journey

- Applied fall 2005
- Interviewed fall 2005
- Started July 2006
- Served one year
Merging Divisions and Priorities

**Fiscal Year 2006**
- Bioengineering and Environmental Systems
- Chemical and Transport Systems
- Civil and Mechanical Systems
- Design and Manufacturing Innovation
- Electrical and Communications Systems
- Engineering Education and Centers
- Office of Industrial Innovation

**Fiscal Year 2007**
- Office of Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation (EFRI)
- Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET)
- Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI)
- Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems (ECCS)
- Engineering Education and Centers (EEC)
- Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)
Process for becoming a program officer

- Career Opportunities
- Dear Colleague Letter
- Typical academic job interview
  - Presentation
  - Interviews
- Search Committee
Program Directors have an unparalleled opportunity and responsibility to ensure NSF-funded research is at the forefront of advancing fundamental knowledge. In support of that, Program Directors are responsible for extensive interaction with academic research communities and industry, as well as interaction with other Federal agencies that may lead to development of interagency collaborations. Within this context, Program Directors solicit, receive and review research and education proposals, make funding recommendations, administer awards, and undertake interaction with research communities in these fields. They are also responsible for service to Foundation-wide activities and initiatives that together accomplish NSF's strategic goals to: 1) Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering, 2) Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs through Research and Education, and 3) Excel as a Federal Science Agency. The position requires a commitment to high standards of intellectualism and ethical conduct, a considerable breadth of interest, receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.
Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent training in a field of engineering plus after award of the Ph.D., six or more years of successful independent research or research administration (for IPA, academic rank of associate professor or higher). The position requires a broad knowledge of the relevant disciplinary areas of the Division of Chemical, Biological, Environmental and Transport Systems and knowledge of the general scientific community. Experience working within a team environment and some administrative skills (budget, people) are needed. Appointees are expected to function effectively both within their specific program and as a member of crosscutting and interactive teams. Skills in multidisciplinary research are highly desirable.
**Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment:** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides the negotiated funding toward the assignee’s salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement. For additional information regarding IPA positions, please visit the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/ipa.jsp.
Advantages

- National and international profile
- Increases network of colleagues
- Broader view of the research community
- Opportunities for future employment
Disadvantages

- Moratorium time for submitting proposals
- One and a half jobs, at least
- Less funding
Questions?