SOME UNOFFICIAL ADVICE ABOUT WORKING WITH NSF

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Proposer, reviewer, and former NSF Program Officer
#1: STAY UP-TO-DATE

- Learn about new programs
- Learn about changes in existing programs
- Learn about PI meetings
- Learn about NSF Workshops
- Learn about job openings

My personal strategy:
- Daily email from NSF
- Follow NSF and CISE on Twitter
- Subscribe to LISTSERVs for quarterly detailed updates on specific programs, e.g., CCF/CIF
#2: LEARN TO LOVE THE NSF AWARD SEARCH TOOL

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/advancedSearch.jsp
#3: GET TO KNOW YOUR PROGRAM(S) AND PROGRAM OFFICER(S)

- Read the solicitation!
- It is ok to email a Program Officer to ask for an opinion on whether your research is a good fit for their program.
  - Include a 1-2 page summary of your research.
- Volunteer to serve on a panel.
  - Email to program officer with CV and keywords on your expertise.
  - Some programs use annual volunteer panelist surveys, e.g., SaTC.
- Request a short meeting with your Program Officer at NSF headquarters (now in Alexandria, VA).
  - Bring materials to present and/or leave behind
#4: BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE CONVENTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS OF YOUR COMMUNITY

- Ask colleagues in your community for copies of successful proposals.

- Different communities have different expectations:
  - ENG: Proposals typically have a significant experimental validation component.
  - CISE: Proposals are expected to be foundational. Significant emphasis on experimental work is often judged negatively.

- Adapt your proposal to the conventions and expectations of your community.
ATTEND A CISE CAREER WORKSHOP

NSF CISE CAREER WORKSHOP 2017
MARCH 20, 2017 -- ARLINGTON, VA

Update - Slides are available:
The slides for all presentations are available at the agenda page.

Update - Post-workshop Survey:
Please complete the following post-workshop survey after the breakout session:

Update - Live streaming link:
The workshop will start live streaming of the afternoon session from 1:00PM EDT on March 20. Please visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsLqDDOTS8 to follow the workshop online.

Update - Important documents to be viewed prior to the workshop:

- CAREER Overview Presentation: The presentation gives an overview of the NSF CISE CAREER program. Please note that the powerpoint slides should be viewed in presentation mode as a narration.

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2017 NSF CISE CAREER Proposal Writing Workshop, to be held at the Hilton Arlington near the NSF headquarters on Monday, March 20, 2017. This event will introduce junior faculty to the NSF CAREER program, and help them prepare

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 30: Registration Deadline
Feb 5: Notification of Acceptance
Feb 19: Schedule Announcement for day after meeting with CISE PDs
Mar 5: Notification of Travel Support
Mar 20: CAREER Workshop

ORGANIZERS

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#6: LEARN ABOUT SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- REU supplements and sites
- EAGER
- GOALI
- Programs to encourage international collaboration:
  - NSF-BSF (US/Israel)
  - WiFiUS (US/Finland)
  - ...

#7: EMBRACE THE BUREAUCRACY

- NSF is in the Executive branch of the federal government
- Budgets are often in flux until just a few months before the end of the fiscal year

**INPUT**
- 50,000 Proposals evaluated through competitive review process
- 38,000 Reviewers, including external experts and program staff
- 233,000 Total number of reviews, each proposal evaluated multiple times

**OUTPUT**
- $7.3 billion NSF FY 2015 Budget Request
- 94% Funds research, education and related activities
- 10,800 Competitive awards funded
- 1,922 U.S. colleges, universities, and other institutions receiving NSF funding
- 299,000 Estimated number of researchers, postdoctoral fellows, trainees, teachers and students NSF supports directly

**IMPACT**
- 47,800 Students supported by NSF Graduate Research Fellowships since 1952
- 210+ Number of Nobel Laureates supported by NSF
- NSF-Supported Research has spurred economic activity and improved the quality of life for all Americans
- STEM Workforce Development supports students, teachers and tools to enable the development of a diverse and highly qualified science and technology workforce

*Figures other than Budget Request represent FY 2013 actuals*
#8: DIVERSIFY

- Submit your good (but sufficiently different) ideas to different programs
- NSF isn’t the only game in town
  - NIH
  - DARPA
  - …