Agenda

1. NSF criteria & education plan framework
2. Panel: Advice from awardees
3. Questions!
NSF Merit Review Criteria

Essential Criteria

• **Intellectual Merit**: the potential to advance knowledge

• **Broader Impacts**: the potential to benefit society & contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

Updated Jan 2014
NSF Merit Review Criteria

Five Review Criteria

1. Essential Criteria: Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts
2. Suggest creative, original & transformative concepts
3. Well reasoned & organized and incorporates a mechanism to assess success
4. Qualifications of individuals
5. Adequate resources

Updated Jan 2014
NSF will also give careful consideration to the following:

- Integration of research & education
- Integrating diversity into programs, projects & activities
Your Education Plan

Reviewers & Program Officials want to see an education component that is **new**

- not just activities that you’ve already established
- something more than just course development
- something that is as unique or as innovative as your regular research

- **Standard NSF proposal: ~1 - 2 pages education**
- **CAREER: ~ 3 - 4 pages (out of 15 total)**
Writing your NSF CAREER Education Plan...

Educational component (no matter how brilliant) cannot make up for a deficient research plan.
Approaching your Education Plan

- Consider activities you already involved in
- Do your background research / talk to your department colleagues
- Leverage NSF investments at Brown & local connections
  - Expertise & infrastructure of existing centers / programs
  - Existing partnerships, relationships & frameworks
  - Collaborators with expertise in education & outreach.
- Select activities you are interested in
- Take assessment & evaluation seriously
- Create a detailed timeline
Example Education Plan Formats:

– Promoting teaching, training and learning
  • Example: Developing a new and innovative unit based on your research in your course

– Broadening participation of underrepresented groups
  • Example: Hosting students and/or teachers from underserved demographic groups; integrating a service teaching project in your course

– Enhancing the infrastructure for education
  • Example: Working with science centers on new exhibits or resources
Do…

- Talk to your department colleagues.
- Do something you are genuinely excited about.
- Discuss your proposal & strategy with the research office, the Science Center & the Sheridan Center.
- Get letters of collaboration that show your commitment (Science Center, Sheridan Center; Swearer Center, etc).
- Partner with groups/centers on campus to take advantage of existing infrastructure.
I should have...

- Talked with my Program Officer *before* submitting.
- Started earlier (6 months).
- Included funding for education activities in my budget.
- Not overcommitted!
- Proofread and polished far ahead of the deadline.
- Had a longer-term vision.

➢ Mock Peer Review Panels in June!
Be Persuasive

• **Sell the idea:**
  Demonstrate that your ideas are creative and will make an impact in your field.

• **Sell yourself:**
  Demonstrate that you are capable of carrying out what you propose.

• **Sell your enthusiasm:**
  Demonstrate that you are motivated to conduct the proposed work.
Number of Submitted CAREER Proposals Varies Widely Across NSF

Proposals Submitted

http://www.nsf.gov/career
Proposal Review

- Review & Funding vary by Directorate & Division
  - Mostly dedicated CAREER Panels in ENG, CISE, EHR, OCI
  - Some CAREER proposals compete with other research proposals in the most appropriate research program

Contact your program officer!
Funding Rates Follows Trend for Regular Proposals in the Program of Interest
Broader Impacts Committee

OVPR
Science Center
Dean of the Faculty
Education Department
Swearer Center
Environmental Change Initiative
Leadership Alliance
Sheridan Center
Continuing Education