

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

October 2, 2008

Dear Colleague:

We are initiating a national search for the National Science Foundation's Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) and seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. David Lightfoot has served in this position with great distinction since May 2005.

The Assistant Director, SBE, manages a Directorate comprised of three divisions: Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Social and Economic Sciences (SES), and Science Resources Statistics (SRS). Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the Directorate's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with the criteria that will be used in the search. Employment may be on a temporary or permanent basis in the Federal Service or by temporary assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Jeremy A. Sabloff of the University of Pennsylvania has agreed to head the Search Committee. We seek your help in identifying candidates with the following qualifications: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the social, behavioral and economic science communities in the areas of education and research; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF management team. We are especially interested in identifying women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities for consideration. Recommendations of individuals from any sector -- academic, industry, or government -- are welcome.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information that you might be able to provide, to the AD/SBE Search Committee via e-mail (sbesrch@lists.nsf.gov) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving your recommendations by November 15, 2008.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.

Handwritten signature of Arden L. Bement, Jr.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director

Handwritten signature of Kathie L. Olsen.

Kathie L. Olsen
Deputy Director

Enclosures

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**Search Committee Review Criteria for
Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (AD/SBE), NSF**

We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:

Strategic Vision

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in the social, behavioral and economic sciences.
- Ability to think strategically and formulate integrated plans for education and research activities in the social, behavioral and economic sciences disciplines, at their interfaces, and across the boundaries with other disciplines.

Leadership, Direction, and Representation

- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior management team, helping to develop consensus both within the SBE directorate and across the agency on agency policy and plans.
- Ability to plan, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research and education programs and to forge government-industry-university partnerships.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of approximately 115 scientific and support staff personnel.
- Ability to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans to the external community, including the public, the Congress, industry, and colleagues in other disciplines.

Credibility within Research and Education Community

- Deep sense of scholarship, significant contributions to the social, behavioral and economic sciences.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the social, behavioral and economic sciences is conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research and education in the social, behavioral and economic sciences.
- High level of professional recognition in the social, behavioral and economic science communities as evidenced by positions held, publications, inventions, and/or professional awards.

Commitment

- Commitment to the people, ideas and tools goals of the NSF Strategic Plan and to the strategies for achieving these goals through developing intellectual capital, integrating research and education, and promoting partnerships, and an ability to conceptualize the role of social, behavioral and economic sciences in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the appointment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.
- Commitment to equitable representation of underrepresented groups in the national social, behavioral and economic sciences enterprise.

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The National Science Foundation
Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. Its vision is to enable the nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation. In pursuit of this vision, NSF invests in (1) **DISCOVERY** by supporting research that will advance the frontiers of knowledge and establish the nation as a leader in transformational science; (2) **LEARNING** to cultivate a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce and scientifically literate citizenry; (3) **RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE** by building the nation's research capacity with critical investments in advanced instruments, tools and facilities; and (4) **STEWARDSHIP** by cultivating a capable and responsive organization that promotes excellence in science and engineering research and education. All of these goals work together in concert. The Foundation seeks to realize these goals using four core values: vision, dedication to excellence, broad inclusiveness, and accountability to the research community and the taxpayer.

The **Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences** (SBE) is one of seven NSF directorates. SBE is composed of three divisions: Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Social and Economic Sciences (SES), and Science Resources Statistics (SRS). The BCS and SES divisions support research yielding fundamental knowledge of human behavior, interaction, and social and economic systems, organizations and institutions. The SRS division is uniquely tasked to track the human and institutional resources vital to the nation's science and engineering infrastructure. SRS research comprises America's primary data source on the research enterprise. The Directorate staff of approximately 115 employees administers a budget of approximately \$215 million annually.

The **Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences** (AD/SBE) serves as a key member of NSF's senior management and policy team and provides leadership and direction to the SBE Directorate programs and initiatives. The incumbent is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities, and policy within the framework of statutory and National Science Board authority. NSF seeks a candidate with outstanding leadership abilities; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the social, behavioral and economic science communities in the areas of education and research; and a commitment to the goals and strategies of the National Science Foundation.