



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230**

DATE: August 7, 2006

TITLE: The Division of Chemical, Biochemical, Environmental, and Transport (CBET)
Employment Opportunity for Program Director—Dear Colleague Letter

Dear Colleague:

The Chemical, Biochemical, Environmental, and Transport Division (CBET) within the Engineering Directorate (ENG) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) announce a nationwide search for one engineering professional to fill the following position:

Program Director: Energy for Sustainability Program

The position is open until October 15, 2006. While disciplinary expertise will be expected, the focus of the search is to assemble a scholarly, open-minded, diverse and intellectually integrated individual to join the present team in sharing ENG's responsibilities within NSF's overall mission: to support merit-reviewed education and research activities that enable the nation's capacity to perform.

The Energy for Sustainability Program supports fundamental research and education in novel energy production, conversion, and storage and is focused on energy sources that are energy friendly and renewable. Sources for sustainable energy could include sunlight, wind, and biomass. Hydrogen and alcohols are potential carriers that can be derived from renewable sources. Exploratory research to produce and store hydrogen for use in direct combustion or in fuel cells, the role of biomass and bio-fuels, and enhanced energy efficiency and novel photovoltaics research are examples of areas under consideration.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: support merit-reviewed education and research activities that enable the nation's capacity to perform. To discharge this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines, but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Qualification requirements include a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in the relevant discipline, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or substantial managerial experience in academe, industry, or government. Also desirable is knowledge of the general scientific community, skill in written communication and preparation of technical reports, an ability to communicate orally, and several years of successful independent research of the kind normally expected of the academic rank of professor or associate professor. All appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs and in a team mode, contributing to and coordinating with organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State government agencies and private-sector organizations as necessary.

Periodic appointments to leadership of interdivisional, inter-directorate and interagency programs may be made. The Program Director position may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment (IPA) Act: 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 funding toward the assignees salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement.

Visiting Scientist Appointment. Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on a non-paid leave status from their home institution and appointed to NSF's payroll as Federal employee. NSF withholds Social Security benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for up to one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

Temporary Excepted Service Appointment. Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, and life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers, and Educators" on the NSF website at http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps.

Should you or your colleagues be interested in these positions, or wish to nominate suitable candidates, please contact the search committee coordinators, Dr. Robert M. Wellek (rwellek@nsf.gov) and Dr. Marshall Lih (mlih@nsf.gov), and forward a curriculum vita to them by October 15, 2006. Applications will be reviewed after this date. Inquires, applications and nominations for this Program Director position should be directed to:

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Dr. Marshall Lih, Co-Chair, Search Committee Coordinator
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