

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



October 11, 2005

Dear Colleague:

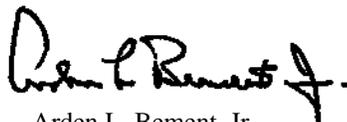
We are initiating a national search for the National Science Foundation's Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), and seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. Michael Turner will be completing his assignment as Assistant Director this spring, having served with distinction since October 2003. He will return to the University of Chicago, where he is the Bruce V. and Diane M. Rauner Distinguished Service Professor. We appreciate Dr. Turner's service, and are grateful for his leadership and contributions to the nation's scientific enterprise.

The Assistant Director, MPS, manages a Directorate comprised of five divisions: Astronomical Sciences; Chemistry; Materials Research; Mathematical Sciences; and Physics, and the Office of Multidisciplinary Activities. 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 assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

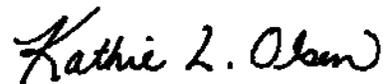
We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Richard N. Zare, Marguerite Blake Wilbur Professor in Natural Science at Stanford University, has agreed to head the Screening Committee. Both we and the Committee seek your help in identifying candidates with the following qualifications: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the mathematical and physical sciences in education and research; demonstrated experience in managing major facilities and logistics operations; 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 which you might be able to provide, to the AD/MPS Screening Committee via e-mail (mpssrch@nsf.gov) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1205, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving your recommendations by November 11, 2005.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.



Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director



Kathie L. Olsen
Deputy Director

Enclosures

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**Search Committee Review Criteria for
Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (AD/MPS), NSF**

We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:

Strategic Vision

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in the mathematical and physical sciences.
- Ability to think strategically and formulate integrated plans for education and research activities in the mathematics and physical science 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 MPS 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 effect government-industry-university partnerships.
- Demonstrated experience in managing major facilities and logistics operations.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of approximately 140 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 one or more of the mathematical and physical sciences.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the mathematical and physical sciences is conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research and education in the mathematical and physical sciences.
- High level of professional recognition in the mathematical and physical sciences community 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 mathematical and physical 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 mathematical and physical sciences enterprise.

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**The National Science Foundation
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical 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) IDEAS to provide a deep and broad fundamental science and engineering knowledge base; (2) TOOLS to provide widely accessible, state-of-the-art science and engineering infrastructure; and (3) PEOPLE to develop a diverse, internationally competitive and globally-engaged workforce of scientists, engineers and well-prepared citizens. All of these goals work in concert. The Foundation seeks to realize these three goals through three core strategies: developing intellectual capital; integrating research and education; and promoting partnerships among institutions involved in science and engineering research and education.

The **Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences** (MPS) is one of seven NSF directorates. The focus of the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences is to promote discoveries about the Universe and the laws that govern it. These discoveries will create new knowledge, materials, and instruments which promote progress across science and engineering, and will contribute to the nation's prosperity, security, and welfare. The Directorate's goals and strategies mirror those of the Foundation. The Directorate includes the Divisions of Astronomical Sciences; Chemistry; Materials Research; Mathematical Sciences; and Physics, and the Office of Multidisciplinary Activities. The Directorate staff of approximately 140 employees administers a budget of approximately \$1.07 billion annually.

The **Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences** (AD/MPS) serves as a key member of NSF's senior management and policy team and provides leadership and direction to the MPS 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. He or she must have outstanding leadership abilities; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues and opportunities facing mathematics and the physical sciences in education and research; demonstrated experience in managing major facilities and logistics operations; and a commitment to the goals and strategies of the National Science Foundation.