

Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program

Program Solicitation – NSF 11-690

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<http://www.nsf.gov/career>

CAREER: Support for “New” Investigators

- Faculty Early-Career Development ([CAREER](#)) Program
 - **Most prestigious award -- to help a junior faculty member develop activities that can effectively integrate research and education within the context of his/her organization.**
- Foundation-wide support of teacher-scholars – focused on new investigators ... but ...
- All NSF programs support new investigators as part of the regular research competitions. About 2/3rds of new investigators are supported by the research programs.

Goals of the CAREER Program



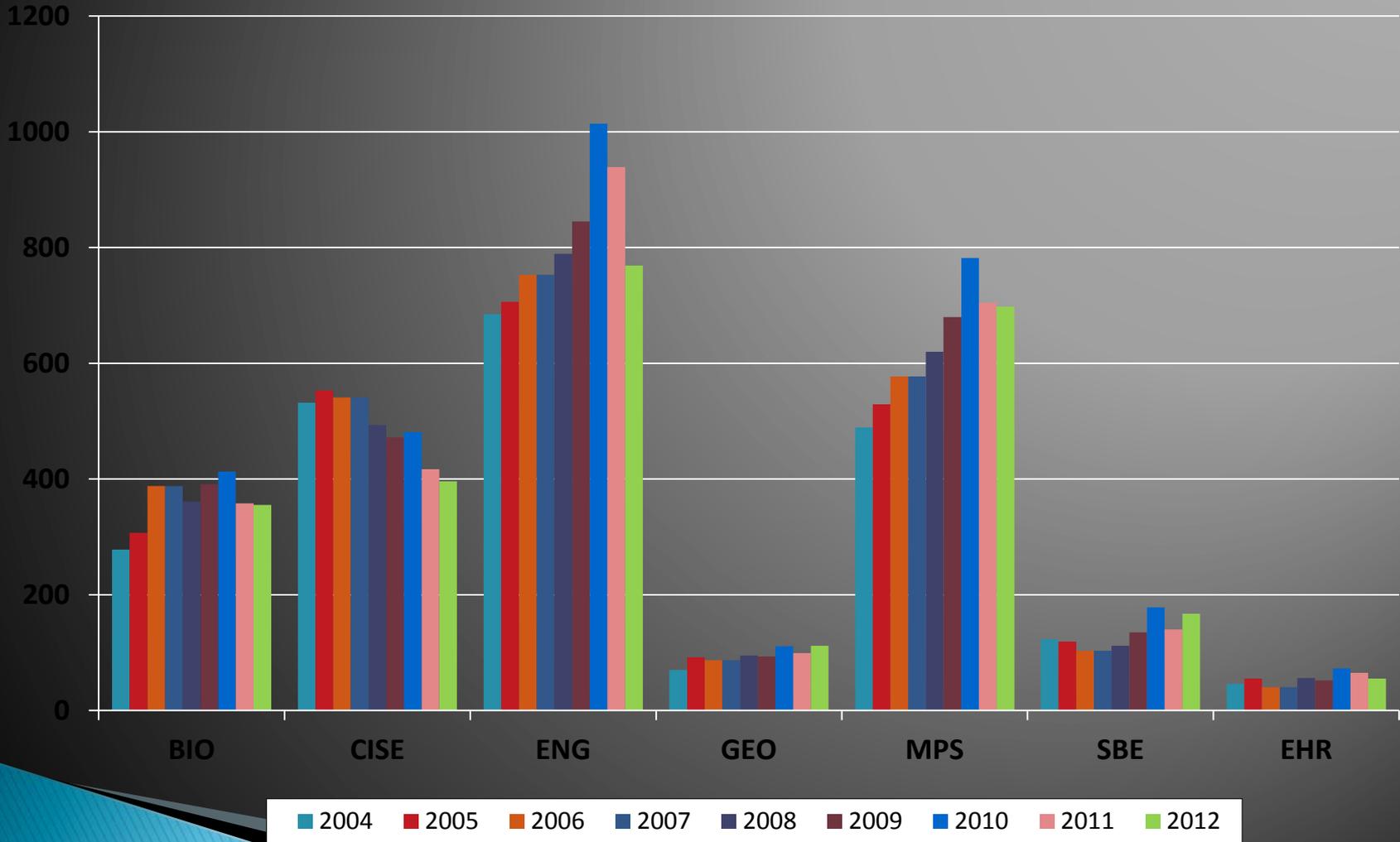
- Provide stable support for five years
- \geq \$400K in most Directorates, BIO and OPP are \geq \$500K
- To allow the career development of outstanding new teacher-scholars in the context of the mission of their organization.
- Build a foundation for a lifetime of integrated contributions to research and education.
- Provide incentives to Universities to value the integration of research and education.
- Increase participation of those traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering.

CAREER varies across NSF

- Number of submitted CAREER proposals vary widely across NSF
- Review and Funding methods vary according to Directorate and Division practices
- Many CAREER proposals compete with other research proposals in the most appropriate research program
- CAREER Coordinating Committee (CCC) is made up of members from the different Directorates/Offices – We are the liaison between the programs and the senior management at NSF



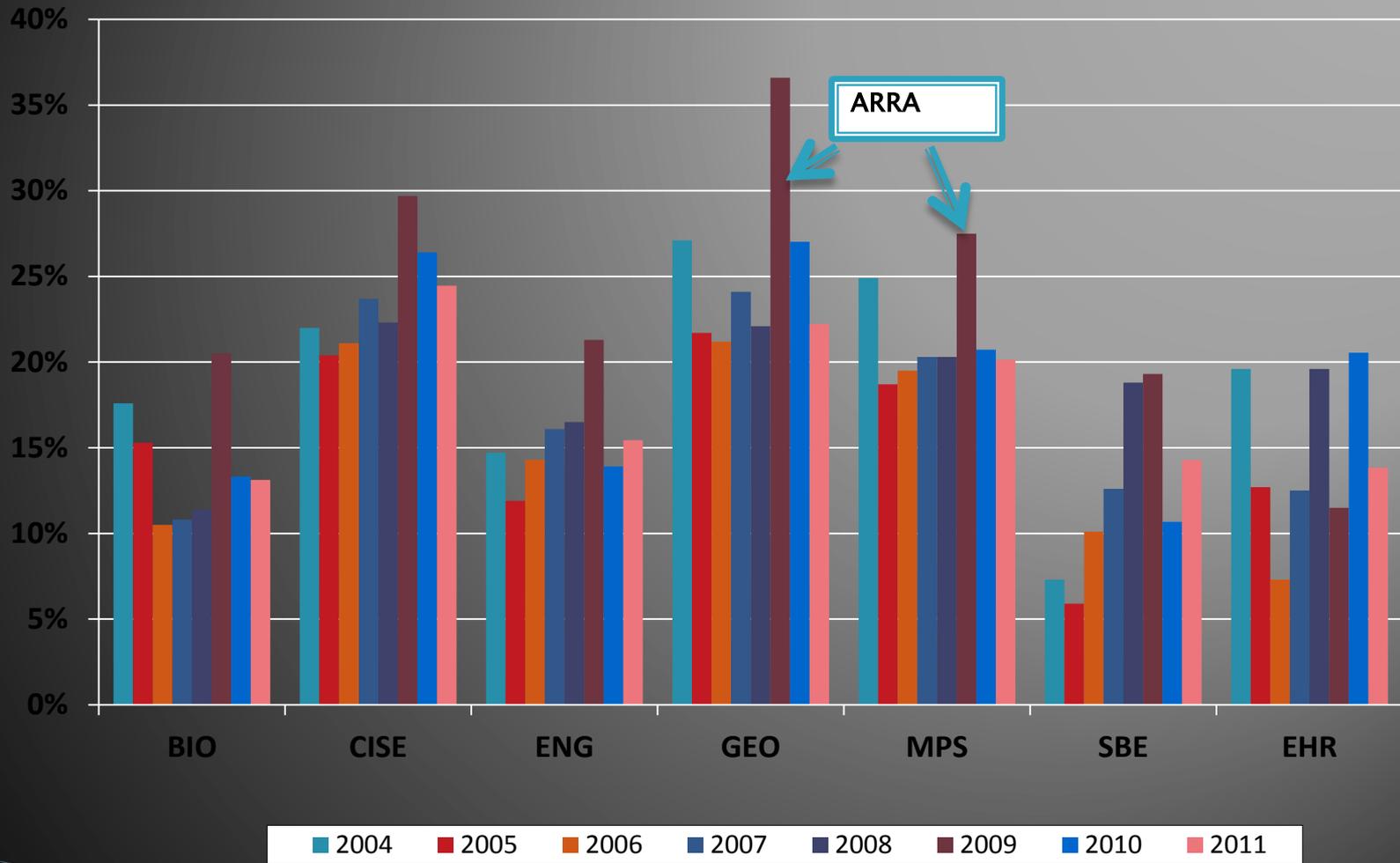
Proposals Submitted



Success Rates and Expectations

- CAREER proposals are submitted to a disciplinary unit or program
- They are reviewed according to the relevant Program/Division practices - Talk to Program Officer or Division Contact for more information
(<http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp>)
- Typical award sizes vary in each Program and/or Division
- Variable levels of expectations for scope of research and education plans
- Assessment of Departmental Letter (2 pages) is part of the review criteria for CAREER
- Funding rates follows trend for regular proposals in the program of interest

Success Rate



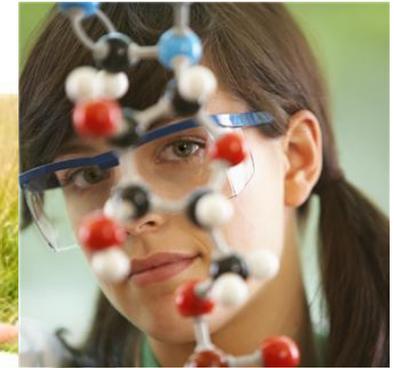
Merit Review of CAREERs



- Ad hoc + Panel (with other proposals in the Program – most of GEO (ATM uses ad hoc only), BIO, and SBE
- Mostly dedicated CAREER Panels – ENG, CISE, EHR, OCI
- MPS varies by Division:
 - AST – Panel only
 - CHE, DMR – Mix of ad hoc and panels (check your program)
 - DMS – mostly panels (2 programs use ad hoc only)
 - ... etc. ...

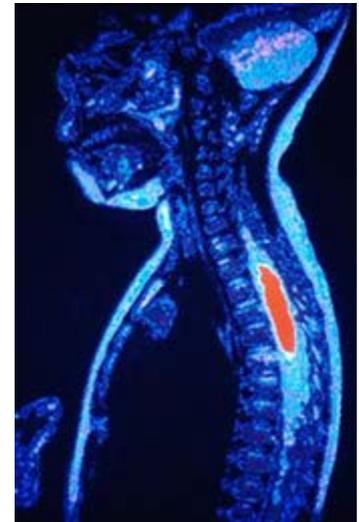
CAREER Education Plan

- Activities should go beyond what is expected from any Assistant Professor in your field
- Workload should not be unreasonable
- Should be informed by what has been successful in the past - intellectual merit of the education component
- Should have a plan for assessing the success of the education program
- Check with your Program Officer or search the abstracts on the web



Integration of Research and Education

- How will your research impact your education goals and how will your education activities feed back into your research?
- Involving others (graduate, undergraduates, K-12, high school teachers, public) in your research using new tools, laboratory methods, field components, web outreach, cyber networks, etc...
- Partnering with those in other communities, especially those traditionally underrepresented in Sciences and Engineering
- Bringing the excitement of your research topics to help in the education of others
- Searching for new methods to deliver your research results to a broader audience than those in the immediate research community
- Using the broader community to gather data for your scientific pursuits (“citizen science”)



CAREER personnel and budgets

- No co-principal investigators or other senior staff are allowed
- Consultants, sub-awards are allowed (no senior personnel costs in sub-awards)
- Some programs will support buy out of academic year time for teaching intensive institutions (check with your Program Officer)
- International activities are encouraged and may be supported by the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE)
- Some Directorates prefer making more awards but closer to the 400 K minimum (or 500K in BIO and OPP).

Departmental Letter (2 pages)

- Support for the PIs proposed CAREER research and education activities
- Description of how the PIs career goals and responsibilities mesh with that of the organization and department
- Commitment to the professional development of the PI with mentoring and whatever is needed to forward the PIs efforts to integrate research and education
- Verification that the PI is eligible for the CAREER program

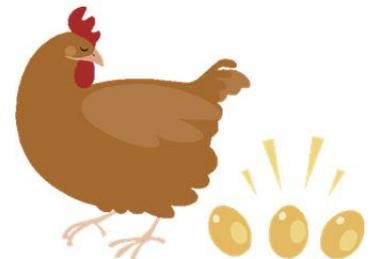
Traits of Successful CAREER proposals

- CAREER proposals should match the expectations in the disciplinary programs in terms of research and education - This is a highly competitive program!
- Written with peer reviewers (Ad Hoc and/or Panel) in mind - [Ask your Program Officer](#) who will be assessing your proposal
- Appropriate scope of education and research activities. It is a 5-year plan, not your whole life
- Goes outside the education box of regular research proposals in your field
- Strikes a balance between doable research activities and more risky pursuits



Some CAREER Urban Myths

- *“You cannot apply if you have another award”*
- *“It is an entry program, apply to CAREER first”*
- *“I can only write a good CAREER proposal after I have seen successful CAREER proposals”*
- *“I read on the web that to succeed you have to... ”*
- *“CAREER awardees are more “mobile” “*
- *“The education component does not matter”*
- *“You have no chance if you are not from a research-intensive institution”*



Is CAREER the right program for you?

- Can you think of a proposal that is appropriate for NSF with research and education activities that are innovative and ambitious?
- Is your Department/Organization supportive?
- Are you seriously committed to the goals of CAREER?
- Are you at the right stage in your career?
- Would like to be considered for the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), if eligible?
- Have you discussed your ideas with mentors, fellows, program officers?



PECASE: Presidential Early-Career Awards for Science and Engineers

- **PECASE Eligibility** - Be a US Citizen or US Permanent Resident by the time of nomination to the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy
- 20 Nominees for NSF PECASE every year from the pool of recent CAREER awardees
- Number of nominees per Directorate is a function of the number of proposals submitted to the program for each Directorate

PECASE: Presidential Early-Career Awards for Science and Engineers (Dec. 2010)



Career–Life Balance Initiative (CLB)

- ▶ Builds on the best of family-friendly practices to help attract, retain, and advance graduate students, postdoctoral students, and early-career researchers in STEM fields.
- ▶ Help reduce the rate at which women depart from the STEM workforce.
- ▶ Initial focus on CLB opportunities such as dependent-care issues (child birth/adoption and elder care) for NSF's CAREER and postdoctoral programs, where career-life balance opportunities can help retain a significant fraction of early career STEM talent.
- ▶ Integrated over time through other programs such as the Graduate Research Fellowship program and expand opportunities such as dual career-hiring through the Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers (ADVANCE) program.
- ▶ Encourages career-life balance opportunities such as flexible start dates for NSF awards; no-cost extensions; virtual panel participation; recommendations for child care accommodations for panelists; and family-friendly program management (e.g., instructions for panelists regarding family friendly issues).
- ▶ NSF also invites the submission of supplemental funding requests to support additional personnel (e.g., research technicians or equivalent) to sustain research when PIs are on family leave.
- ▶ Up to 3 months of salary support may be requested (for a maximum of \$12,000 in salary compensation) through the CAREER program.
- ▶ For additional information, please contact the appropriate Directorate or Divisional representative identified on the CAREER webpage at:
<http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp>.



And finally, ... soon to be released ...

Research Opportunities in Europe for NSF CAREER Awardees

Agreement between NSF and the European Union (EU), signed on July 13, 2012, ... enables U.S.-based scientists and engineers with NSF-funded CAREER awards and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships to pursue research collaboration with European colleagues supported through EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants.

Under the Arrangement, the ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) identifies ERC-funded research groups who wish to host CAREER awardees for research visits of up to one year within their ERC funding.

In general, the European hosts will provide living expenses during the visits, and NSF will provide travel support.

Details to follow in a DCL.

The CAREER website – www.nsf.gov/career

- Latest Program Solicitation - NSF 11-690
- Frequently Asked Questions - NSF 11-038
- CAREER Directorate/Division Contacts
- Link to recent awards
- Link to PECASE awards
- Next Deadlines

2013

- ▶ July 22: BIO, CISE, EHR, OCI
- ▶ July 23: ENG
- ▶ July 24: GEO, MPS, SBE, OPP

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CAREER Directorate and Division Contacts:

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Questions?

