

**National Science Foundation**

4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Colleagues,

We thank those of you who came forward after our most recent update on plans for the senior review with offers to host regional town meetings in the western part of the country. We now are planning on two additional meetings, one in Boulder and one in Berkeley. Town meetings currently scheduled are:

Boston, Massachusetts - 29 September 2005

Boston University

Contact Ken Janes ([janes@bu.edu](mailto:janes@bu.edu)) or Tereasa Brainerd ([brainerd@bu.edu](mailto:brainerd@bu.edu)) for information.

Minneapolis, Minnesota – 7 October 2005

University of Minnesota

Contact Virginia Olson for information at 'ginny@astro.umn.edu'

Washington, DC – 14 October 2005

AAS, to be held at the Carnegie Institution

Contact Kevin Marvel for information at 'marvel@as.org'

Clemson, South Carolina – 15 October 2005

Clemson University

Contact Dieter Hartmann for information at 'hdieter@clemson.edu'

Boulder, Colorado – 24 October 2005

University of Colorado/High Altitude Observatory

Contact Mike Shull for information at 'mshull@casa.colorado.edu'

Berkeley, California – December 2005, date to be determined

University of California, Berkeley

Contact Don Backer for information at 'dbacker@astro.berkeley.edu'

These meetings are intended to be an opportunity for us to explain why and how we are carrying out this review of our programs, to answer questions, and to hear your views. We expect each of these meetings to last a full day, and hope to have 3 or 4 staff from the Astronomy Division present. Typically the morning will be spent in a plenary session, with a presentation providing background and describing the context and the process of the review, followed by an ample period for questions. We expect that the afternoon sessions will be organized as brief 15 to 30 minute meetings with small groups or individuals who have particular issues they would like to discuss or who wish to speak privately with AST staff.

To help us plan for these afternoon sessions, we need information from you. If you are interested in meeting with AST staff privately, please send an email to me ([efriel@nsf.gov](mailto:efriel@nsf.gov)) with an indication of your interest and topic of discussion, the length of time you would like to meet, how many people will likely be in the group, and any constraints on your availability. You are welcome to send background information for the meeting, but please limit it to one page. With this information we will draw up schedules for these afternoon meetings, be able to prepare any material that might be helpful, and decide which AST staff members will be available to meet with you. We will then let you know what arrangements we have made.

We look forward to meeting and talking with many of you this fall.

Sincerely,

Eileen Friel  
Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences  
National Science Foundation