



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0092-O

Page 1 of 1

Following the NSF SBIR/STTR Phase I grantee workshop, during which PI eligibility was addressed, a first-time PI¹ self-disclosed that he was not in compliance with the primary employment requirement due to the technical requirements of his visa status. We opened an investigation and determined that the PI was primarily employed by a university² during an NSF award, in violation of the SBIR program's eligibility requirements. We further determined that because of the PI's immigration status, the PI was precluded from being legally employed by the small business.³ OIG recommended that NSF terminate the award, recover the initial payment, and withhold the final payment. NSF concurred and full restitution was made to NSF.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

1
2
3