



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I15050018

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We received information suggesting the Principal Investigator (PI)¹ of an NSF award had not provided accurate information about her academic credentials² on numerous NSF proposals, two of which were funded, and one of which was pending review at the time of our investigation. Specifically, it was alleged that the PI was representing herself as a PhD, when she had in fact earned a "Doctor of Education," properly reflected as either a "EdD" or "DEd."

We reviewed the PI's multiple NSF proposals and determined that the cover page and biographical sketches submitted were inconsistent. With respect to the funded and pending NSF proposals, the cover page of one of these proposals indicated that the PI had earned a PhD, while the other two proposals contained accurate information regarding her degree.

We conducted multiple interviews and researched the distinction between the EdD earned by the PI at her college and a PhD. We learned that both are research degrees requiring final dissertations, and also learned that the cover pages on NSF proposals are generally populated by the grantee institution. Based upon our investigation, we determined that given the nature of the awards at issue, the evidence did not substantiate that the difference between these two types of degrees was material to the relevant funding decisions, nor did it establish that the PI was responsible for the inaccurate information submitted on the cover pages of the NSF proposals.

We sent a letter to the PI reiterating the importance of ensuring the accuracy of representations made in federal proposals.

Thus, no further investigative activity is warranted in this matter.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

[REDACTED]