EARLY CAREER AWARDS
ORIENTATION SESSION
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PRESENTATIONS / ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>PRESENTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00-3:05 pm</td>
<td>Introductions &amp; Welcome</td>
<td>VCRI Kamal Khayat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:05-3:30 pm</td>
<td>OVCRI Support</td>
<td>Summer Young, OVCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-3:45 pm</td>
<td>Career Awards Overview</td>
<td>Summer Young, OVCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Themes from Past S&amp;T CAREER Reviews</td>
<td>Summer Young, OVCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:30 pm</td>
<td>Panelists – S&amp;T Past Awardees &amp; Reviewers of Career Awards</td>
<td>Nancy Stone, Faculty Fellow, OCVRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Recent Awardees:</em> Daoru Han, Jonathan Obrist-Farner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Reviewers:</em> Jonathan Obrist-Farner, Genda Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-4:45 pm</td>
<td>General Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Nancy Stone, Faculty Fellow, OVCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Next Steps &amp; Closing Remarks</td>
<td>VCRI Kamal Khayat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVCRI SUPPORT FOR EARLY-CAREER FACULTY

> Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) pre-award administrators

> OSP proposal compilation, vetting, and submission milestones

> OVCRI travel grants for visiting agencies

> complex proposal development assistance

> early career faculty proposal development assistance
CAREER AWARDS OVERVIEW
A Partial Listing of Opportunities

> NSF CAREER Award

> Department of Defense (DOD)
  – Air Force OSR Young Investigator Program
  – Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Program
  – DARPA Young Faculty Award
  – Army Research Office Young Investigator Program
  – Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI) Early Career Basic Research Proposals
  – Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) Early Career Investigator Proposals
CAREER AWARDS OVERVIEW
A Partial Listing of Opportunities Continued

> Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Research Program

> NASA Early Career Faculty Grants
  – Space Tech
  – Planetary Sciences
  – Other directorates from time to time

> National Institutes of Health (NIH) K Series Career Development Awards

> USDA Ag Food Research (AFRI) New Investigator Grants
CAREER AWARDS OVERVIEW
Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)

> Honors outstanding scientists and engineers in the early stages of their independent research careers
> Identifies a cadre of scientists and engineers who will advance science and missions important to participating agencies
> Must be a US citizen, national, or permanent resident
> No application necessary – candidates are recommended by participating federal agencies based on previously submitted early career and young investigator grant proposals
CAREER AWARDS OVERVIEW

Eligibility Criteria

> Varies by widely by agency
> Typical criteria
  – Date PhD was received
  – Citizenship status at time of application or award
  – Institutional affiliation
  – Appointment status
  – Tenure status
  – Previous agency funding
CAREER AWARDS OVERVIEW

Deadlines

> Varies widely by agency
  – Army accepts application year round
  – NIH accepts applications on a rolling basis 3 times a year
  – Other agencies have specific due dates that change from year to year
  – Some require or encourage white papers or pre applications

> See table of opportunities and links for further information
THEMES FROM PAST S&T NSF CAREER REVIEWS

> Based on general trends from both awarded and declined proposals submitted by S&T in the past few years

> Compiled from PIs who have been willing to share all or part of the feedback they received from NSF reviewers/Program Officers

> Caveat: based on three sets of reviews across three NSF divisions. Every effort has been made to generalize reviews and comments so as not to identify any particular PI/proposal.
THEMES FROM PAST S&T NSF CAREER REVIEWS

- Novelty/Innovation Are Crucial
- Preliminary Data Is Important
- S&T Broader Impacts & Educational Activities Are Generally Strong
- Project Scope Can Be Challenging to Get Just Right
THEMES FROM PAST S&T NSF CAREER REVIEWS – Novelty & Innovation

> In declined proposals, a lack of novelty/innovation was cited as a weakness. NSF reviewers made comments about…
  – Lack of a new concept
  – Significant amounts of literature already available
  – Extensive study of topics already conducted
  – Limited novelty preventing a higher ranking

> In awarded proposals, a novel concept was cited as a strength, with reviewers making comments like…
  – Experimental data has not been published on this topic
  – Other researchers are not pursuing this type of work
THEMES FROM PAST S&T NSF CAREER REVIEWS – Preliminary Data

> When cited as a weakness, reviewers commented PI’s experience and background weren’t verified by preliminary data.

> When cited as a strength, reviewers saw preliminary data as confirmation of the efficacy of proposed methods.
S&T’s broader impacts were generally well received.

Well-documented collaborations seemed to be viewed with favor and as validation of the potential for broader impacts of the work.

When critiqued, typical comments were that sub-disciplines of particular fields were not addressed and that general distribution of knowledge/tools was not explicitly described.
Again, educational activities were generally well received

Strengths cited included
- Highly committed departments (as evidenced by departmental letters)
- Extensive and detailed educational plans
- Plans that were particularly well integrated

Weakness cited included
- Lack of detail for assessment/metrics of success
THEMES FROM PAST S&T NSF CAREER REVIEWS – Project Scope

> Project scope requires a Goldilocks approach
> Reviewers cited as weaknesses both scopes that were too narrow and too broad
  – Weakness: goals were too numerous and the scope too broad
  – Weakness: scope was too narrow and not ambitious enough
PANEL DISCUSSION
Awardees & Reviewers of Career Awards

> Recent Awardees:
  – Daoru Han
  – Jonathan Obrist-Farner

> Reviewers:
  – Jonathan Obrist-Farner
  – Genda Chen
GENERAL Q&A

> Questions?
NEXT STEPS IN APPLYING FOR A CAREER AWARD

> Start your white paper
> Attend The Connector workshop
> Submit white paper to mentor
> Contact program managers at agencies