

EARLY CAREER AWARDS ORIENTATION SESSION

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation



AGENDA

TIME	PRESENTATIONS / ACTIVITIES	PRESENTERS
3:00-3:05 pm	Introductions & Welcome	VCRI Kamal Khayat
3:05-3:30 pm	OVCRI Support	Summer Young, OVCRI
3:30-3:45 pm	Career Awards Overview	Summer Young, OVCRI
3:45-4:00 pm	Themes from Past S&T CAREER Reviews	Summer Young, OVCRI
4:00-4:30 pm	Panelists – S&T Past Awardees & Reviewers of Career Awards	<p>Nancy Stone, Faculty Fellow, OCVRI</p> <p><i>Recent Awardees:</i></p> <p>Daoru Han</p> <p>Jonathan Obrist-Farner</p> <p><i>Reviewers:</i></p> <p>Jonathan Obrist-Farner</p> <p>Genda Chen</p>
4:30-4:45 pm	General Q&A	Nancy Stone, Faculty Fellow, OVCRI
4:45-5:00 pm	Next Steps & Closing Remarks	VCRI Kamal Khayat

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.

THEMES FROM PAST S&T NSF CAREER REVIEWS – Broader Impacts

- > 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

THEMES FROM PAST S&T NSF CAREER REVIEWS – Educational Activities

- > 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

