NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)

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Sponsored by Research Development Services

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CAREER: Integrating Teaching and Research

- Provide stable support for 5 years

- ~ $400k in most Directorates (~ $500k for BIO and OPP)

- Career development of outstanding new teacher-scholars in the context of the mission of their organization

- Build a foundation for a lifetime of integrated contributions to research and education

- Provide incentives to Universities to value the integration of research and education

- Increase participation of those traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering

What Does “Integration of Teaching and Research” Mean?

- Demonstrate how your research will impact your educational goals and vice versa

- Involve others (students, teachers, public) in your research - get creative

- Partner with communities traditionally underrepresented in Sciences

- Disseminate your results using innovative methods to reach more people

- Using your community to gather data (“citizen science”)

More info: http://cepr.uoregon.edu/
Should you apply?

- Do you have an appropriate project?
- Have you discussed your ideas with mentors, colleagues and program officers?
- Is your Department/Organization supportive?
- Are you at the right stage of your career?
Proposals Submitted

What Happens After You Submit?

• CAREER proposals are submitted to a disciplinary unit or program

• Reviewed according to Program/Division individual practices

• Award sizes vary in each Program and/or Division

• Expectations for scope of research and education plans vary by Program/Division

• Departmental letter matters—part of the review criteria

• Funding rates follow trend for regular proposals in the program of interest

“What about Sequestration?”

Merit Review of CAREER Awards:

• Intellectual Merit: How will your field benefit from your proposed research?

• Broader Impacts: How will society benefit?

• *Ad hoc* + Panel (along with other proposals in the program)
  • Most of GEO (except ATM), BIO, SBE

• Mostly dedicated CAREER Panels
  • ENG, CISE, EHR, OCI

• MPS varies by division
  • AST: panel only
  • CHE, DMR: mix of *ad hoc* and panels
  • DMS: mostly panels, some *ad hoc* only

What Goes Into an Education Plan?

- Should go beyond what is expected of you as an Assistant Professor
- Reasonable workload
- Informed by what has been successful - should have intellectual merit
- Plan for assessment
- Resources at UO: Center for Educational Policy Research
  - Terri Ward (terri@uoregon.edu)

More info: http://cepr.uoregon.edu/
What should your departmental letter address?

• Commitments by department to your research and educational activities

• Description of how your professional goals align with the department and institution

• Professional development and mentorship available to you

• Verification of eligibility

More info: http://rfd.uoregon.edu/content/contacts
Recipe for Success

• Write with your reviewers in mind (talk to your Program Officer)

• Address a gap in knowledge in your field

• Make sure the scope of your proposed work is reasonable given the time frame (5 years)

• Go beyond your minimum requirements for tenure

• Strike a balance between relatively low and high risk pursuits
CAREER Award myths:

- “You can’t apply if you already have another award”
- “Apply to CAREER first”
- “I read on the web that to succeed you should…”
- “The educational component does not matter”
Help!

- Proposal review including planning, conceptualization
- Administrative tasks like formatting support letters, biosketches
- Coordinate an external review by a content expert in your field
- For advice and support for developing educational component contact CEPR (Terri Ward: terri@uoregon.edu)

“Ask Early, Ask Often”

More info: vidusha@uoregon.edu