NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)
April 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2014
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 PLR)

- 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?
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
  • Terri Ward- Center for Educational Policy Research (terri@uoregon.edu)
  • Bryan Rebar- STEM CORE (brebar@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 Bryan Rebar at STEM CORE

"Ask Early, Ask Often"

More info: vidusha@uoregon.edu