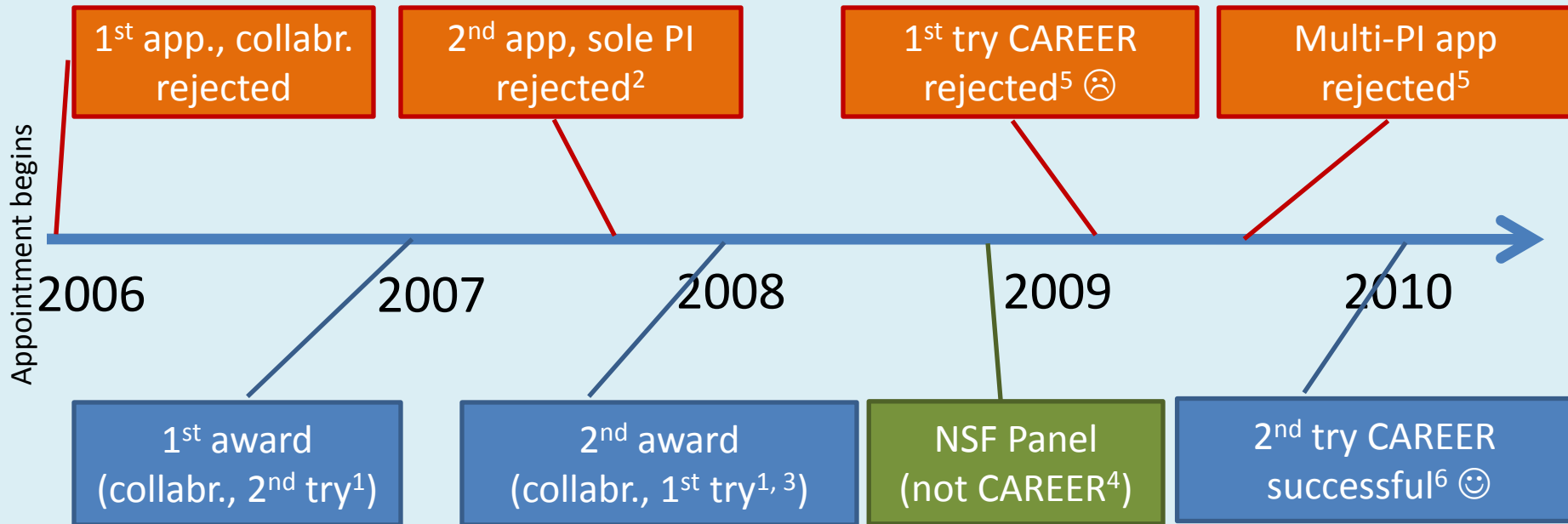




Applying for an NSF CAREER Grant
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My NSF Journey (CAREER and otherwise)



1. Different project than CAREER & Collaborative (impt to NSF?).
2. Not well thought out, dropped this project entirely.
3. Unique circumstances.
4. This is the most useful prep for writing a successful NSF grant.
5. Primary reason for rejection: insufficient broader impacts.
6. Be persistent! 7 attempts (5 projects), 4 rejections, 3 successes

NSF CAREER Grant: What Worked For Me

1. Waited to apply until I felt I could write a strong proposal (5-year vision, preliminary data, BI linked to science).
2. Broader Impacts: something I want to do, feasible
 - A. Linked to current research, teaching
 - B. Piggy-backed 2/3 items with existing projects
 - C. Lots of support letters (develop allies, feasibility)
 - D. Brag shamelessly about what you are already doing
3. Contacted the Program Officer before each submission, after the first rejection (great info, strategy).
4. Most aspects no different from a regular NSF grant
 - A. Important, novel, interesting science
 - B. Clarity & getting to the point soon, visuals, organization
 - C. Assessment (self: read recent successful CAREER grants, external - got lots of friendly reviews from colleagues)

NSF CAREER Grant: BI tips

1. Play to your strengths AND existing opportunities (e.g. teaching, outreach, stakeholders, etc).
2. Graduate students are great facilitators of broader impacts. Having them perform outreach is a win-win situation (you get help, they get trained).
3. Burke Museum will partner for exhibitions / education. They are good at this (dino days, meet the mammals, etc).
4. UWHS – University of Washington in the High School; brings college curricula to local high schools.
5. Office of Educational Assessment: Partner for surveys (especially if targeting grads / undergrads)