

Applying for NSF CAREER Grants

UW ADVANCE
Spring Quarter Pre-Tenure Faculty Workshop
May 3, 2019

Speakers

CAREER Awardees and Panelists

- **Kate Starbird**, Assistant Professor, Human Centered Design & Engineering
- **Alshakim Nelson**, Assistant Professor, Chemistry
- **Emily Carrington**, Professor, Biology

Broadening Participation Contacts

- **Todd Sperry**, Assistant Director, EIP/McNair Scholars Program
- **Jacqueline Hernandez**, LSAMP Counseling Services Coordinator
- **Scott Pinkham**, Assistant Director, MSEP Lead

Kate Starbird

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN
AND ENGINEERING

My First CAREER Proposal

- Dissertation Part II: Online Volunteerism during Crisis Events
- Proposing the “future work” of my dissertation as my CAREER
- Perfectly written, cited, edited
- Submitted in July 2014 (after Year #2)



REJECTED!

- Clocking ticking, no CAREER proposals
- Half-written proposals, never submitted (thank goodness)
- Building collaborations, working with amazing students
- Finding traction in unexpected places
- Guided by funded proposals (a RAPID, an NSF Small)
- Began to focus on online rumors and misinformation during crisis events



Alshakim Nelson

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CHEMISTRY

General Thoughts

- Develop a research idea or theme that will shape your career for the next 5 years and beyond
- Preliminary results are important!
- Ask successful colleagues for a copy of their proposal
 - Helps with formatting/organization
- The Grant Application Writer's Workbook was helpful for me

Connect with the program officer(s)

- Call or visit DC
 - Does this fit into the particular program?
 - Any general advice?
- Write a one page proposal summary

Broader Impacts !!!

- Broader impact section matters!
 - Should account for 30-40 % of your proposal
- Should have at least one innovative component that connects to your research
- Identify outreach targets that interest you
- Plug into existing UW infrastructure
 - UWHS, Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, Upward Bound
- Think about data / figures for Broader Impacts section
 - Take pictures
 - Use surveys

Emily Carrington

PROFESSOR, BIOLOGY

Identifying Relevant NSF Programs: Web Search, Contact a Program Director

- Where is the “intellectual center of gravity” of my project?
 - Environmental Engineering and Sustainability?
 - Transport Phenomena?
 - Biosensing?
- Examine the websites of the relevant division(s)
 - Try to identify several programs and/or clusters
 - **Email one or more of the listed Program Directors** with questions about relevance of your project
 - **Send in a 1-2 page synopsis** outlining your question, specific aims and approach
 - More questions? Set up a time to talk over the phone



What Makes a Proposal Competitive?

- Potential for high impact
- New, original ideas
- Focused, feasible project plan
- Articulated knowledge of subject area, published relevant work
- Experience in essential methods or approaches, and/or collaborator expertise
- Sound scientific rationale
- Realistic amount of work; sufficient detail; critical approach (knows the pitfalls, contingency plans)

Program Director Considerations in Recommending Funding

- Likely high impact of the work
- Place in Program's scientific portfolio of awards
- Other grant support for the PI
- Impact on institution or state (e.g., EPSCoR)
- Broadening participation of PIs
- Educational, and other Broader Impacts

Panel Review Feedback

The process:

- Individuals write proposal reviews, provide rating
- Panel discusses written reviews, resolving any differences in ratings
- Panel ranks the proposal relative to others in the panel
- Panel writes Panel Summary, which summarizes strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and the rationale for the panel ranking

How to respond if not funded:

- DO focus on the Panel Summary
- DON'T fret over minor comments in review that don't make their way to the Panel Summary
- DO set up a time to discuss your reviews with your Program Director and how to address critiques.
- Revise and resubmit

Todd Sperry

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, EIP/MCNAIR SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

Jacqueline Hernandez

LSAMP COUNSELING SERVICES COORDINATOR

Scott Pinkham

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MSEP LEAD

CAREER Webinar- EHR

- **May 7**
- **2:00- 3:30 PM**
- No registration required

Overview of issues to consider for PIs planning to submit a CAREER proposal to the Directorate for Education and Human Resources

For more information, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxegupn5>

CAREER Webinar- Engineering

- **May 9**

NSF will host a webinar on the CAREER program. Although the slots have been filled to attend the webinar, a recording will be made available shortly afterward. Principal Investigators may also contact the appropriate program officers to discuss their topics. **CAREER proposals for Engineering are due July 18, 2019**

For more information, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/gwd56xb>

Proposal Summary Speed Dating

- June 21, 2019 - 10:00am to 11:30am, Loew 355
- Get high level feedback on a draft of your CAREER proposal abstract. Reviewers are past CAREER awardees and other faculty. The format will be a speed-dating style with each attendee spending 10-15 minutes with each reviewer.

Questions?