

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



May 4, 2009

Dear Colleague:

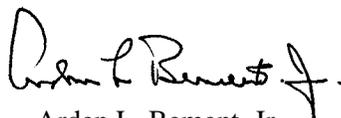
We are initiating a national search for the National Science Foundation's Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) and seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. Tony Chan has served in this position with great distinction since October 2006.

The Assistant Director, MPS, leads a Directorate comprised of five divisions: Astronomical Sciences, Chemistry, Materials Research, Mathematical Sciences, and Physics; as well as the Office of Multidisciplinary Activities. Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the Directorate's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with the criteria that will be used in the search. Employment may be on a temporary or permanent basis in the Federal Service or by temporary assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

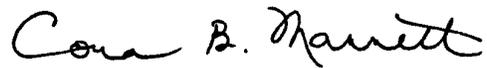
We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Witherell, Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of California at Santa Barbara, has agreed to head the search committee. We seek your help in identifying candidates with the following qualifications: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the mathematical and physical science communities in the areas of education and research; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF management team. We are especially interested in identifying women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities for consideration. Recommendations of individuals from any sector - academic, industry, or government - are welcome.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information that you can provide, to the AD/MPS Search Committee via e-mail ([mpssrch@lists.nsf.gov](mailto:mpssrch@lists.nsf.gov)) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving your recommendations by June 19, 2009.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.



Arden L. Bement, Jr.  
Director



Cora B. Marrett  
Acting Deputy Director

Enclosures

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**Search Committee Review Criteria for  
Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (AD/MPS), NSF**

**We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:**

**Strategic Vision**

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in the mathematical and physical sciences.
- Ability to think strategically and formulate integrated plans for education and research activities in the mathematical and physical science disciplines, at their interfaces, and across the boundaries with other disciplines.

**Leadership, Direction, and Representation**

- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior management team, helping to develop consensus both within the MPS directorate and across the agency on agency policy and plans.
- Ability to plan, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research and education programs and to forge government-industry-university partnerships.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of approximately 150 scientific and support staff personnel.
- Ability to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans to the external community, including the public, the Congress, industry, and colleagues in other disciplines.

**Credibility within Research and Education Community**

- Deep sense of scholarship, significant contributions to the mathematical and physical sciences.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the mathematical and physical sciences is conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research and education in the mathematical and physical sciences.
- High level of professional recognition in the mathematical and physical sciences community as evidenced by positions held, publications, inventions, and/or professional awards.

**Commitment**

- Commitment to the discovery, learning, research infrastructure and stewardship goals of the NSF Strategic Plan and to the strategies for achieving these goals through developing intellectual capital, integrating research and education, and promoting partnerships, and an ability to conceptualize the role of the mathematical and physical sciences in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the appointment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.
- Commitment to equitable representation of underrepresented groups in the national mathematical and physical sciences enterprise.

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**The National Science Foundation**  
**Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences**

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. Its vision is to enable the nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation. In pursuit of this vision, NSF invests in (1) DISCOVERY by supporting research that will advance the frontiers of knowledge and establish the nation as a leader in transformational science; (2) LEARNING to cultivate a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce and scientifically literate citizenry; (3) RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE by building the nation's research capacity with critical investments in advanced instruments, tools and facilities; and (4) STEWARDSHIP by cultivating a capable and responsive organization that promotes excellence in science and engineering research and education. All of these goals work together in concert. The Foundation seeks to realize these goals using four core values: vision, dedication to excellence, broad inclusiveness, and accountability to the research community and the taxpayer.

The **Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences** (MPS) is one of seven NSF directorates. MPS employs approximately 150 staff and administers a budget of approximately \$1.7 billion, including nearly \$500 million in one-time funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The directorate is organized into five divisions: Astronomical Sciences, Chemistry, Materials Research, Mathematical Sciences, and Physics; as well as the Office of Multidisciplinary Activities. The Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST) supports the forefront of research in ground-based astronomy, including the development of new instrumentation and next-generation facilities. The Chemistry Division (CHE) advances the health of academic chemistry, enabling basic research and education in the chemical sciences. The Division of Materials Research (DMR) supports new discoveries about matter and materials, with a focus on addressing fundamental materials questions that transcend traditional scientific and engineering disciplines. The Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) promotes the development and exploration of mathematical structures. The Physics Division (PHY) enables fundamental research across the frontier of physics, emphasizing research that broadly impacts other fields of science and society. The Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (OMA) works in partnership with the five MPS divisions to facilitate research that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries.

The **Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences** (AD/MPS) serves as a key member of NSF's senior management and policy team and provides leadership and direction to the MPS directorate's programs and initiatives. The incumbent is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities, and policy within the framework of statutory and National Science Board authority. NSF seeks a candidate with outstanding leadership abilities; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the mathematical and physical science communities in the areas of education and research; and a commitment to the goals and strategies of the National Science Foundation.