NSF SUPPORT OF THE SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

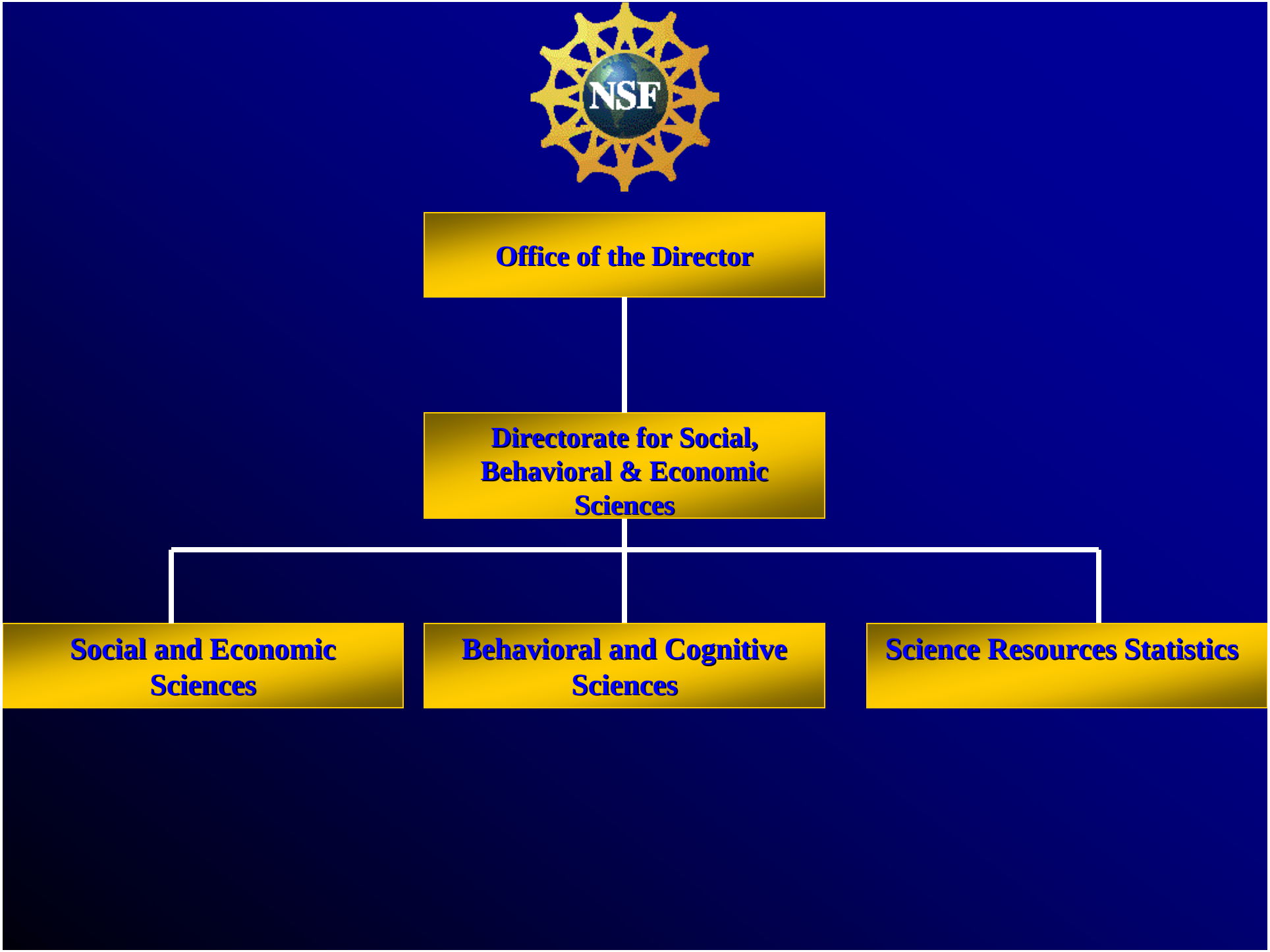
Dr. Rita Teutonico

Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

NSF Regional Conference

Portland, OR

October 2007


NSF
Office of the Director
Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences
Social and Economic Sciences
Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences
Science Resources Statistics

Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES)

- Supports research to develop and advance scientific knowledge focusing on economic, legal, political and social systems, organizations, and institutions
- Supports research on the intellectual and social contexts that govern the development and use of science and technology

Social and Economic Sciences

Programs

- Cross-Directorate Activities
- Decision, Risk, & Management Sciences
- Economics
- Innovation and Organizational Change
- Law and Social Science
- Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
- Political Science
- Science and Society
- Sociology

Cross-Directorate Activities

- Serves both divisions – SES and BCS
- Administers and coordinates programs to increase underrepresented groups in science and engineering
- Supports human resource development and infrastructure improvement
- Provides information on cross-Foundation/cross-cutting programs

Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences

- Supports research that explores fundamental issues in judgment and decision making, risk analysis, management science, and organizational behavior
- Research must be relevant to an operational or applied context, grounded in theory, and based on empirical observation or subject to empirical validation

Program Officers: Robert O'Connor, Jacqueline Meszaros and Jon Leland

Economics

- **Supports:**
  - **Both empirical and theoretical economic analysis as well as work on methods for rigorous research on economic behavior**
  - **Research designed to improve the understanding of the processes and institutions of the U.S. economy and of the world system of which it is a part**
  - **Almost all subfields of economics including: econometrics, economic history, finance, industrial organization, international economics, labor economics, public finance, macroeconomics, and mathematical economics**

Program Officers: Dan Newlon, Nancy Lutz, George Von Furstenberg

Innovation and Organizational Sciences

- Supports research on innovation and organizational phenomena at individual, group and institutional level.
- Diversity of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches funded.

Program Officer: Jacqueline Meszaros

Law and Social Science

- Supports social scientific studies of law and law-like systems of rules, institutions, processes, and behaviors
- Topics can include, but are not limited to
  - research designed to enhance the scientific understanding of the impact of law
  - human behavior and interactions as these relate to law
  - the dynamics of legal decision making
  - the nature, sources, and consequences of variations and changes in legal institutions

Program Officer: Susan Haire

Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics

- Seeks proposals that are interdisciplinary in nature, methodologically innovative, and grounded in theory, such as:
  - Models and methodology for social and behavioral research
  - Statistical methodology/modeling directed towards the social and behavioral sciences
  - Methodological aspects of procedures for data collection

Program Officer: Cheryl Eavey

Political Science

- Supports scientific research that advances knowledge and understanding of citizenship, government, and politics
- Areas include, but are not limited to:
  - American government and politics
  - comparative government and politics
  - international relations
  - political behavior
  - political economy
  - political institutions

Program Officers: Brian Humes and Phil Paolino

Science and Society

S&S considers proposals that examine questions that arise in the interactions of engineering, science, technology, and society. The four components are:

- Ethics and Values in Science, Engineering and Technology (EVS)
- History and Philosophy of Science, Engineering and Technology (HPS)
- Social Studies of Science, Engineering and Technology (SSS)
- Studies of Policy, Science, Engineering and Technology (SPS)

Program Officers: Fred Kronz, Stephen Zehr, and Laurel Smith-Doerr

Sociology

- **The Sociology program supports theoretically-grounded research on systematic patterns of social relationships that examine the causes and consequences of human behavior, social structure and social change. Studies range from micro to macro levels of interaction.**
- **Topics include, but are not limited to:**
  - Stratification, labor markets, mobility, social change
  - Organizations, networks, economic and workplace change
  - Crime, delinquency, social organization and social control
  - Race, ethnicity, social identity/interactions, culture, education
  - Family, gender, population, migration, immigration
  - Social movements, political processes, globalization and more

Program Officers: Pat White and Kevin Gotham

SES Target Dates

January 15 & August 15

- Economics
- Law and Social Science
- Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
- Political Science
- Sociology

January 18 & August 18

- Decision, Risk, & Management Sciences

February 1 & August 1

- Science and Society

February 2

- Innovation and Organizational Change

http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=SES

Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

- Supports research to develop and advance scientific knowledge focusing on human cognition, language, social behavior, and culture
- Supports research on the interactions between human societies and the physical environment

Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

Programs

- Archaeology & Archaeometry
- Cultural Anthropology
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental & Learning Sciences
- Geography & Regional Science
- Linguistics
- Perception, Action, & Cognition
- Physical Anthropology
- Social Psychology

Archaeology

Supports:

- **Archaeological research that contributes to an anthropological understanding of the past**

- **Anthropologically significant archaeometric research**

Program Officer: John Yellen & Donald Grayson

Cognitive Neuroscience

Supports research that advances rigorous understanding of how the human brain supports:

- **thought**
- **perception**
- **affect**
- **action**
- **social processes**
- **and other aspects of cognition and behavior, including how such processes develop and change in the brain and through evolutionary time.**

Program Officer: Douglas Whalen & Stacia Friedman-Hill

Cultural Anthropology

- Promotes basic scientific research on the causes and consequences of human social and cultural variation

- Supports social scientific research of theoretical importance in all theoretical and empirical subfields

Program Officer: Deborah Winslow

Developmental and Learning Sciences

- Supports research that increases our understanding of cognitive, social, and biological processes related to children and adolescents' learning in formal and informal settings
- Supports research on learning and development that:
  - incorporates multidisciplinary, multi-method, microgenetic, and longitudinal approaches
  - develops new methods and theories
  - assesses peer relations, family interactions, social identities, and motivation
  - examines the impact of family, school, and community resources
  - investigates the role of demographic and cultural characteristics in children's learning and development

Program Officer: Amy Sussman

Geography and Regional Science

- Supports research on human, physical, and biotic systems on the Earth's surface, as well as their related subfields
- Investigations into the nature, causes, and consequences of human activity within particular "places and spaces" are encouraged
- Supports both international and domestic projects

Program Officers: Tom Baerwald, Dan Hammel, and Ken Young

Linguistics

- Supports scientific research that focuses on human language as an object of investigation
  - Properties of language and the processes in language use.
  - Social, developmental, biological, and cultural factors in language use
  - The production and perception of speech
- Documenting Endangered Languages
  - Leverage advances in IT to record, document and archive endangered languages.

Program Officer: Joan Maling and Terry Langendoen and Doug Whalen

Perception Action and Cognition

- Supports basic research on human cognitive and perceptual functions
- Topics include, but are not limited to:
  - Attention
  - Memory
  - Spatial Cognition
  - Motor Control
  - Perceptual and Conceptual Development
  - Visual, Auditory, and Tactile Perception
  - Reasoning
- Research supported by the program encompasses a broad range of theoretical perspectives such as symbolic computation, connectionism, and dynamical systems

Program Officer: Ping Li

Physical Anthropology

- Supports basic research in areas related to:
  - Human Evolution
  - Anthropological Genetics
  - Human Adaptation
  - Skeletal Biology
  - Primate Biology
  - Ecology and Behavior
- Grants are often characterized by:
  - An underlying evolutionary framework
  - A consideration of adaptation as a central theoretical theme
- Serves as a bridge between the social and behavioral sciences and the natural and physical sciences

Program Officer: Joanna Lambert

Social Psychology

- Supports research on human social behavior, including cultural differences and development over the life span
- Among the many research topics supported are:
  - attitude formation and change
  - social cognition
  - personality processes
  - interpersonal relations and group processes
  - the self, emotion, social comparison and social influence
  - the psychophysiological correlates of social behavior

Program Officers: Amber Story and Kellina Craig - Henderson

BCS Target Dates

December 1 & July 1

- Archaeology & Archaeometry
- Physical Anthropology

January 1 & August 1

- Cultural Anthropology

January 15 & July 15

- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental & Learning Sciences
- Human Cognition & Perception
- Linguistics
- Social Psychology

January 15 & August 15

- Geography & Regional Science

http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=BCS

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Awards

Small grants to provide funds for items not normally provided through the student's institution

- Archaeology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Decision, Risk, & Management Science
- Economics
- Geography & Regional Science
- Law and Social Science
- Linguistics
- Physical Anthropology
- Political Science
- Science and Society
- Sociology

Other Opportunities for Graduate Research Support

- Directorate of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
  - Minority Postdoctoral Fellowship
- Directorate of Education and Human Resources
  - Graduate Research Fellowship
- Office of International Science and Engineering
  - International Research Experiences for Students
  - Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Projects

Types of Support

- Standard Research Grants
- CAREER Grants
- Small Grants for Exploratory Research
- Conference and Workshop Awards
- Major Research Instrumentation

Foundation-Wide Investments

- Human and Social Dynamics
- Cyberinfrastructure
- Nanoscale Science and Engineering
- Science of Learning Centers

Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) Priority Area

Supports interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the complex dynamics within and among human and social systems, and their environments, at scales ranging from the cellular to the global and from nanoseconds to millennial

- **Three areas of emphasis**
  - **Agents of Change (AOC)**
  - **Dynamics of Human Behavior (DHB)**
  - **Decision Making, Risk and Uncertainty (DRU)**

Cyberinfrastructure

- Coordinate aggregate of software, hardware and other technologies, as well as human expertise, required to support current and future discoveries in science and engineering.
- Active Funding Opportunities:
  - Strategic Technologies for Cyberinfrastructure (STCI)
    - Full proposal target dates: Feb 14, Aug 14, 2008
  - Community-based Data Interoperability Networks (INTEROP)
    - Full Proposal target date: July 23, 2008
- On the horizon:
  - Sustainable Digital Data Preservation and Access Network Providers (DATANET)
  - Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI)

Nanoscale Science and Engineering

- **Nanotechnology Undergraduate Education**
  - **Due in May 2008**
- **Active Nanostructures and Nanodevices**
  - **No FY08 solicitation**
- **Core programs**

Science of Learning Centers

- Extend the frontiers of knowledge on learning and create the intellectual, organizational, and physical infrastructure needed for the long-term advancement of learning research.

- Centers built around a unifying research focus and will incorporate a diverse, multidisciplinary environment involving appropriate partnerships with academia, industry, all levels of education, and other public and private entities.

- No FY08 competition, but SLC is accepting proposals for workshops, SGERs, and supplements to existing NSF awards including awards funded by other programs.

Dr. Marburger's Challenge

- A new "social science of science policy" is needed to define appropriate data elements and to create models that can be useful to policy experts
- Global science and policy communities must collaborate on advancing a new interdisciplinary field of science policy studies
- Policymakers need predictability of outcomes

Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP)

- Evidence-based platform for policy makers
  - Creativity and Innovation
  - Future of technological workforce
  - Impact of globalization
  - Federal versus private investments
  - Indexes of success.
- SciSIP II will be announced this fall

Anatomy of a Proposal

- Cover page
- Proposal Summary (1 pg)
  - *Must include separate statements of intellectual merit and broader impacts*
- Proposal Description (15 pgs)
- References
- Biographical Sketch (2 pgs each PI)
- Budget
- Current and Pending Support
- Single Copy Documents

How to Develop a Proposal

- **Determine your long-term research and education goals**
- **Develop your bright idea**
  - Survey the literature
  - Contact Investigators working on topic
  - Prepare a brief concept paper
  - Discuss with colleagues/mentors
- **Prepare to do the project**
  - Determine available resources
  - Realistically assess needs
  - Develop preliminary data
  - Present to colleagues/mentors/students

How to Develop a Proposal

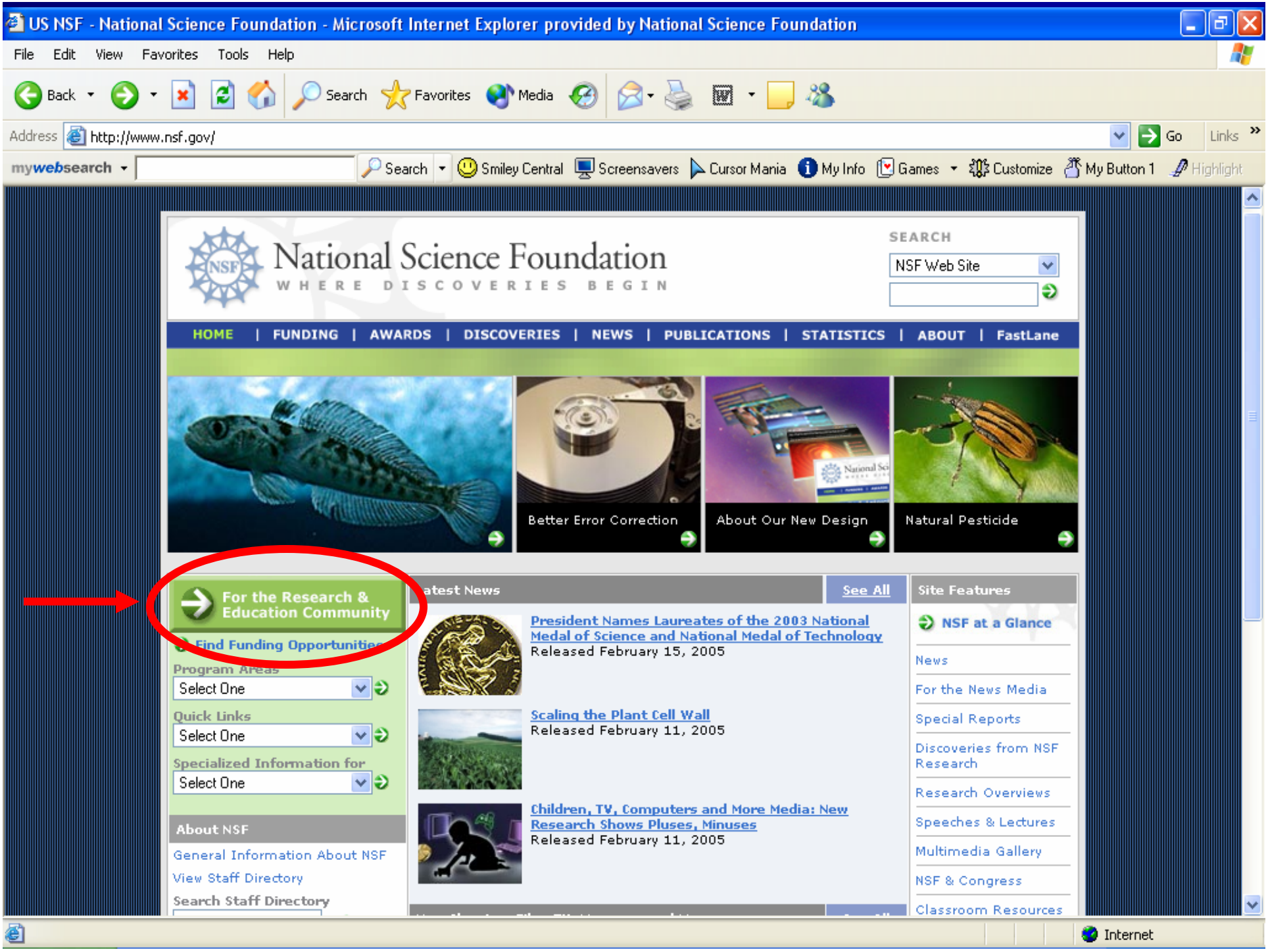
- **Determine possible funding sources**
- **Understand the ground rules**
  - Read carefully announcements and instructions
  - Determine whether your project fits program scope
  - Look over prior award abstracts
  - Ascertain evaluation procedures and criteria
  - Talk with NSF Program Officer
- **Coordinate with your institution and sponsored research office**
- **Ask PIs for copies of proposals**

Budget Tips

- **Amounts**
  - Reasonable for work -- Realistic
  - Well Justified -- Need established
  - In-line with program guidelines
- **Eligible costs**
  - Personnel
  - Equipment
  - Travel
  - Other Direct Costs, Subawards
  - Facilities & Administrative Costs

Standard Review Criteria

1. **What is the intellectual merit and quality of the proposed activity?**
   - Importance
   - Qualifications
   - Creativity and originality
   - Conception and organization
   - Access to resources
2. **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**
   - Training
   - Diversity
   - Infrastructure
   - Dissemination/Public Awareness
   - Societal Benefits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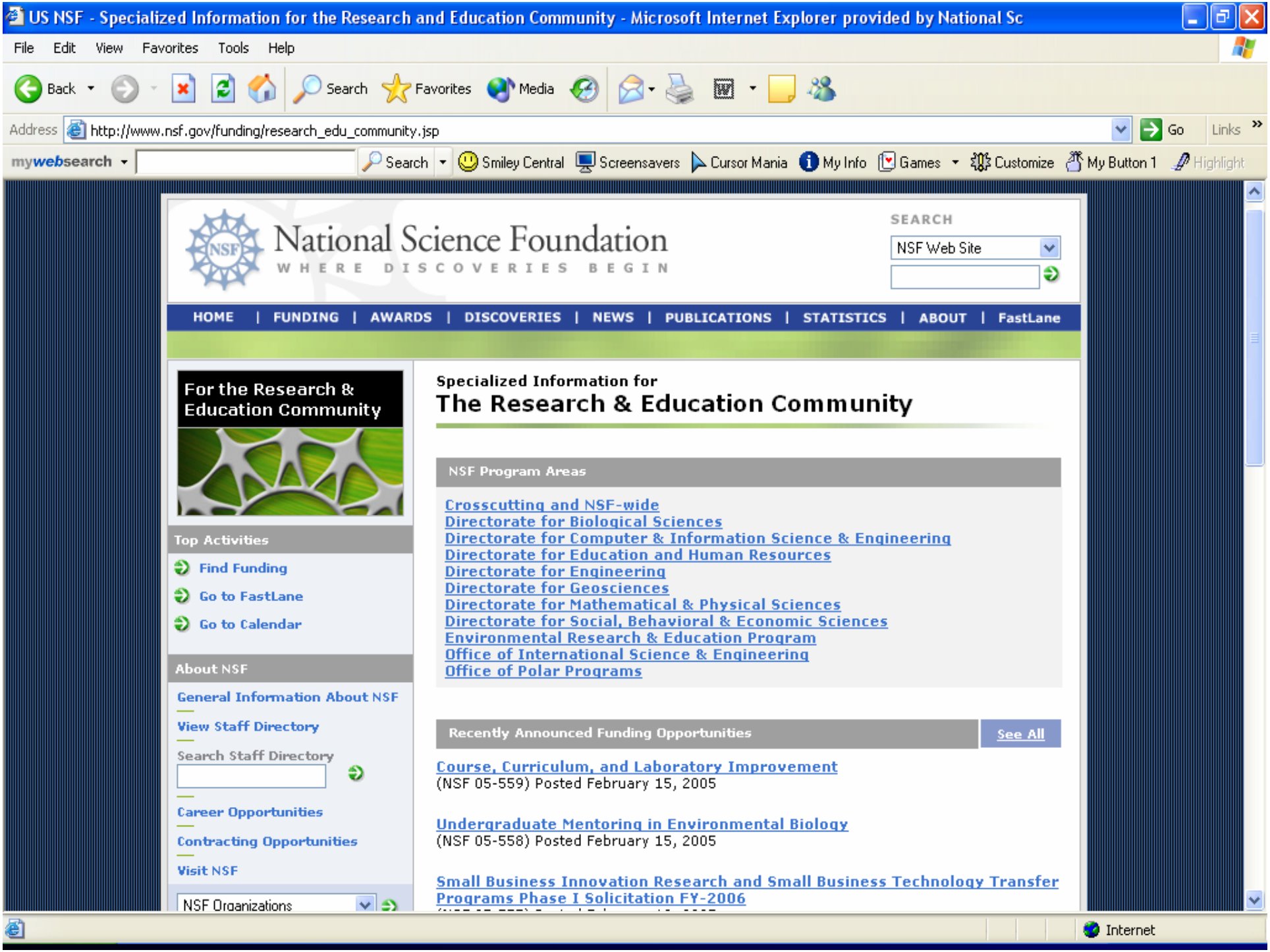
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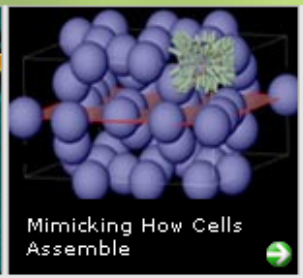
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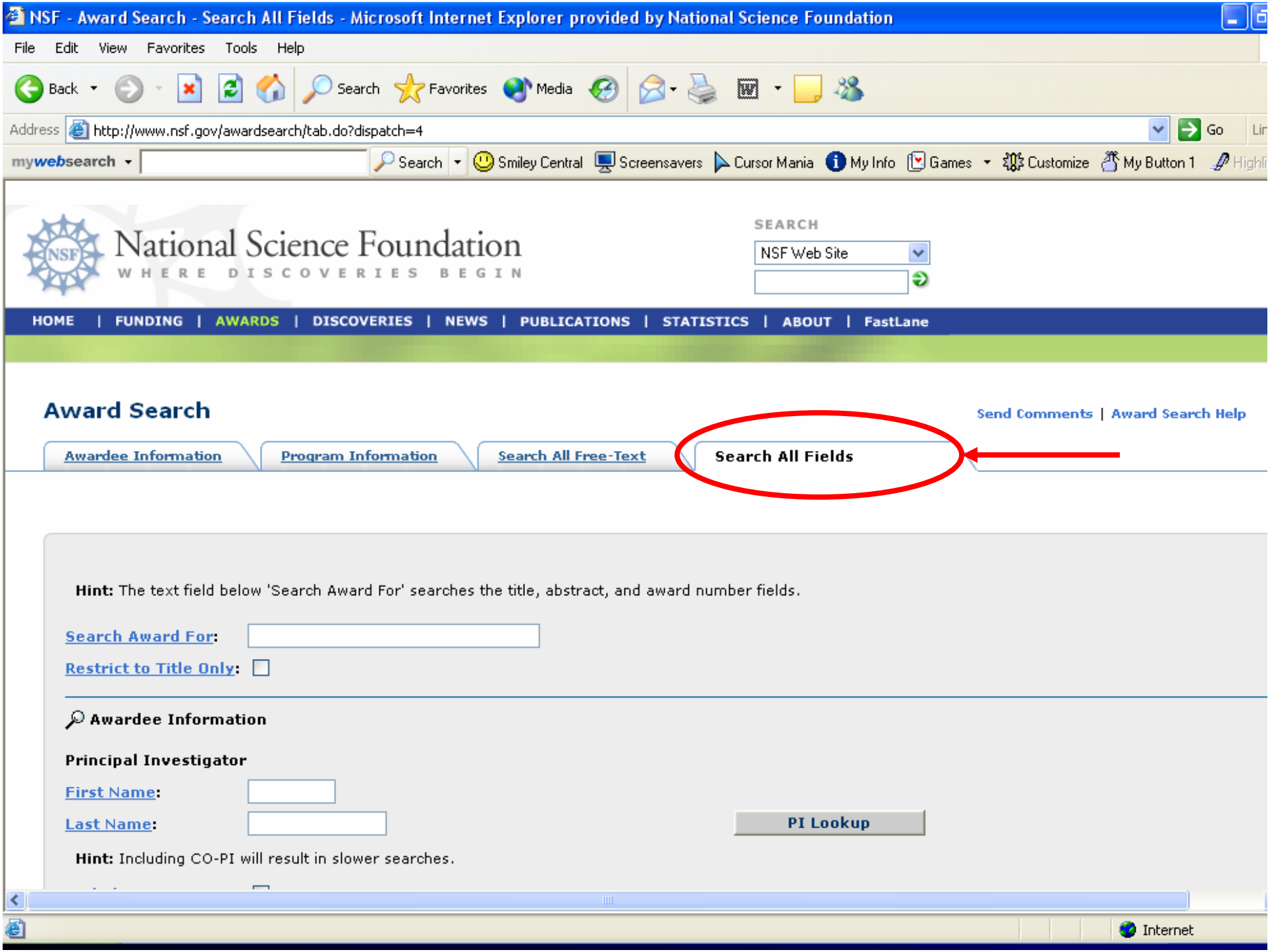
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