NSF REVISES MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

NSF released a revised Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) on October 4, 2012, which incorporates significant revisions to the NSF merit review criteria of Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts.

These revisions are effective for proposals submitted or due on or after January 14, 2013.

For additional resources visit the Merit Review Revisions resource page at: http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/resources.jsp

NSB Report on Merit Review Criteria - Conclusions

• The Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts review criteria together capture the important elements that should guide the evaluation of NSF proposals;

• A set of three Merit Review Principles should be given due diligence by Principal Investigators and reviewers;

• A set of five Merit Review Elements should be considered in the review of both criteria.

Changes to the Proposal Process

• Project Summary will contain the following required separate statements
  o Overview of the Project
  o Statement on Intellectual Merit
  o Statement on Broader Impacts

• Project Description must contain a separate section with a discussion of the Broader Impacts

• Proposing organizations must certify that organizational support will be made available as described in the proposal to address the Broader Impacts and Intellectual Merit activities.

• Annual and Final Reports must address activities related to the Broader Impacts criterion that are not intrinsic to the research.