Enhancing Support of Transformative Research at NSF

Update to National Science Board
Arden L. Bement, Jr.
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NSF Approach

• Infuse support of Potentially Transformative Research (PTR) throughout NSF and all its programs

• Learn how to facilitate PTR

• Lead the community through opportunities for PTR proposal submissions
Developments Since August
NSB Meeting

• Important Notice on Transformative Research
• NSF Working Group on Transformative and Interdisciplinary Research
• Solicitation for Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation
• Enhanced Merit Review Training
Important Notice on Transformative Research
September 24, 2007

• Sent to Presidents of Universities/Colleges; Heads of other NSF Awardee Organizations

• Revised Intellectual Merit Review Criterion
  – Effective October 1, 2007: All new funding opportunities incorporate revised Criterion
  – Effective January 5, 2008: All proposals reviewed against revised Criterion

• Anticipated Funding Mechanisms
  – “Early concept” research projects
  – PTR infused throughout NSF Programs
Working Group on Transformative Research

• **Charge**
  – Develop “Early Concept” funding mechanisms
  – Recommend policies/practices that promote support of PTR NSF-wide
  – Develop mechanisms to evaluate impact
  – Report to Director/Deputy Director

• **Membership**
  – NSF-wide representation
Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation

- Solicitation released September 28, 2007
- Incorporates revised intellectual merit review criterion
- Explicit call for PTR
- Explicit attention by reviewers and program officers to identify PTR
Merit Review Course

- Enhances NSF’s Merit Review Training
- Required of NSF staff
- Includes emphasis on support of PTR
- Identification of effective practices
- Initial offering of course in FY 2008
- Leadership of Division Directors in course development
Next Steps

• Implementation of change to Intellectual Merit Review Criterion
  – Guidance to reviewers and panels
  – Discussions with Advisory Committees
  – Outreach to community

• Development of new funding mechanisms
  – Update Board at February meeting

• Implementation of merit review course

• Continued activities promoting PTR throughout NSF