



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A12120085

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We learned that a PI¹ was informed by a panelist² that one of her proposals would be awarded and that another one would be declined. The panelist claimed to have learned this information from an NSF program officer. We identified an outside connection between a program officer³ involved in overseeing the panel and the panelist, making the scenario plausible. However, the panelist's communication with the PI occurred several months prior to the final budget negotiations and the program's documented decision to make the award. NSF did not formally award the proposal nor decline the other proposal until even later. Thus, there is insufficient substance to treat the alleged breach as anything more than rumor or conjecture on the part of the panelist. There is also insufficient substance to recommend disciplinary action against the program officer for any alleged breach.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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[Redacted text]