



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-10-04-0014

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We received an allegation from another federal agency¹ that a professor² at a university³ had received duplicate and overlapping funding from NSF and the other agency and submitted duplicate reports on the progress of the awards.

Our joint investigation established the professor and the university (1) failed to disclose the duplicative and overlapping nature of the university's research associated with three federal awards; (2) failed to accurately describe the research that had been funded by the NSF Grant and previous federal grant; (3) failed to disclose that the NSF Grant and the previous federal grant were funding or had funded certain specific research tasks being funded with the other agency's monies; and (4) in progress reports and renewal applications submitted to the other agency, listed accomplishments achieved under the NSF Grant and the previous federal grant, along with reporting accomplishments achieved under the other the agency's grant.

We presented the case the appropriate United States Attorney's Office which accepted the matter for prosecution. Ultimately, the university entered into separated settlement agreements with NSF and the other agency and agreed to pay return funds sufficient to make NSF whole.⁴ The university also agreed to provide additional training to undergraduates, graduate students and post docs on federal award requirements for three years. The university also agreed for a period of three years to provide additional oversight on the professors NSF proposals and progress reports and that the professor will refrain from reviewing NSF proposals either as a reviewer or panelist.

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