

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULVARD  
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Title: Division of Engineering Education and Centers (EEC)  
Engineering Education Program Director  
Employment Opportunity—Dear Colleague Letter

May 10, 2007

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Engineering Education and Centers (EEC) announce a nationwide search for a Program Director in the area of Engineering Education. Appointments will usually be made for one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

The Engineering Education Program focuses on increasing the effectiveness and productivity of all of our programs which include both undergraduate and graduate engineering programs, engineering technology and community based pre-engineering programs. Our objective is to improve the quality of engineering education through investments in understanding the pedagogy of how students learn, how faculty can improve their skills and how colleges can innovate to improve the learning environment.

Some of our current topics being supported include: the aims and objectives of engineering education, the content and organization of the curriculum, how students learn problem solving, creativity and design, new methods for assessment and evaluation of how students learn engineering, and research that helps understand how to attract a more talented and diverse student body to all levels of engineering study. In the future we plan to broaden our efforts to new approaches for web-learning, entrepreneurial studies and innovations related to team-based learning, especially capstone design activities, as well a new focus on Eng PhD education.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in basic research and education that contribute to the nation's technical strength, security, and welfare. Discharging this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in a relevant Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics discipline; be knowledgeable about one or more of the following areas: educational research, assessment and evaluation, and/or student learning. In addition, applicants must have six or more years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the position. Demonstrated success in the classroom as well as student advising will be an important attribute for the successful applicant. Also desirable are knowledge of the general scientific community and strong skills in written and oral communication. All appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs and as part of a team, contributing to and coordinating with offices throughout the

Foundation and with other Federal and state government agencies and private sector organizations. This position may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

**Visiting Scientists Engineers and Educators (VSEE) Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institution and appointed to NSF's payroll as Federal employees. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier.

**Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment.** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency are employees of state and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. The individual remains an employee of the home institution, and NSF provides funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits.

**Temporary Excepted Service Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, and life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year.

Formal consideration of interested applicants will begin June 15, 2007 and will continue until a selection is made.

For additional information about NSF's rotational programs, please see "ROTATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND EDUCATORS" on the NSF website at [http://www.nsf.gov/about/career\\_opps](http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps).

Individuals interested in applying for this Program Director position should send a current CV and statement of interest to:

Division of Engineering Education and Centers, Suite 585  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: 703-292-5346  
Fax: 703-292-9051/2  
Attn: Dr. A. L. Soyster  
Email: [asoyster@nsf.gov](mailto:asoyster@nsf.gov)

**NSF IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER COMMITTED TO EMPLOYING A HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.**