



**National Science Foundation**  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
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## **Dear Colleague Letter: The Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences (AGS) – Employment Opportunities for Program Directors**

Date: May 1, 2010

Dear Colleague:

AGS has occasional openings for Program Directors with expertise in the following areas: aeronomy, atmospheric chemistry, climate and large-scale dynamics, meteorology, lower atmosphere observational facilities, paleoclimatology and other interdisciplinary topics in atmospheric research, and cyber-enabled discovery in Atmospheric Science.

AGS manages a range of grant programs that add new understandings of solar, oceanic, terrestrial and social forcings on the dynamics, composition and evolution and variability of the atmosphere and geospace. Included are studies of the physics, chemistry, dynamics and history of earth's atmosphere and near space environment; research on climate processes and variations; and studies to understand the natural global cycles of gases and particles in earth's atmosphere. Additional information about the division and its programs can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=AGS>.

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. This 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.

Appointments will be made for one year and may be extended for additional one or two years by mutual agreement. Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in a relevant field, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the position. The ability to manage programs spanning a variety of disciplines is highly desirable.

Also desirable are knowledge of the general scientific community and strong skills in written and oral communication. All appointees are expected to function effectively 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.

Program Director positions recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

- **Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment (IPA) Act:** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include 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. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides the negotiated funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual

agreement.

- **Visiting Scientist 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 placed on the NSF payroll. 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. Appointments are usually made for a one-year period and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.
- **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 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. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "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 a Program Director position should contact:

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A HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.**