



**National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230**

**CBET 11-001**

**Dear Colleague Letter: The Division of Chemical, Bioengineering,  
Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET) Employment Opportunities  
for Program Director**

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DATE: January 24, 2011

The Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET), within the Directorate for Engineering at the National Science Foundation (NSF), announces a nationwide search for an engineering professional to fill the following position:

**Program Director: Energy for Sustainability Program**

Formal consideration of interested applicants will begin February 1, 2011, with an approximate appointment date of August 15, 2011.

**BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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The **Energy for Sustainability** program supports fundamental research and education that will enable innovative processes for the sustainable production of electricity and transportation fuels. Processes for sustainable energy production must be environmentally benign, reduce greenhouse gas production, and utilize renewable or bio-based resources that are abundant in the United States. The most abundant and sustainable source of renewable energy is the sun. The Energy for Sustainability program emphasizes processes which harness solar energy to make fuels and electrical power, including: biofuels derived from lignocelulosic biomass or algae, photo-voltaics for electricity production, and photo-electrochemical processes for water splitting to hydrogen or CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to hydrocarbon fuels. In addition, this program also supports research in wind energy and fuel cells. The program director may also be involved with special projects and initiatives within NSF and other government agencies.

**NSF Program Directors** bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission. To discharge 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.

Qualification requirements include a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in the relevant discipline, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or substantial managerial experience in academe, industry, or government. Appointees are expected to have significant and relevant knowledge of research related to sustainable energy. Also desirable is knowledge of the general scientific community, skill in written communication and preparation of technical reports, an ability to communicate orally, and several years of successful independent research of the kind normally expected of the academic rank of associate or full professor. All appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs and in a team mode, contributing to and coordinating with organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State government agencies and private-sector organizations as necessary. Such responsibilities can include serving on committees developing new administrative approaches and new focused research activities. Periodic appointments to leadership of interdivisional, inter-directorate and interagency programs may be made.

The position may be filled under one of the following appointment alternatives:

**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\\_ops/](http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_ops/).

Applicants interested in this position should submit their current CV accompanied by a cover letter that highlights the background that specifically relates to the program:

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