



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

**EEC 12-001**

## **Dear Colleague Letter - Program Director, Engineering Research Center Program (ERC)**

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The Division of Engineering Education and Centers, 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: Engineering Research Center Program (ERC)**

Formal consideration of interested applications will begin **January 15, 2012** and will continue until a selection is made. The selected candidate will be expected to start in the fall of 2012.

Qualification requirements for the position are a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in the relevant discipline in biological or biomedical engineering, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or managerial experience in academe, industry, or government. The position requires effective oral and written communication skills, and familiarity with NSF programs and activities is highly desirable. The incumbent is expected to function effectively both as individual within the specific NSF program and as a member of crosscutting and interactive teams. The incumbent must also demonstrate a capability to work across government agencies to promote NSF activities and to leverage program funds through interagency collaborations.

The ERC program was launched in 1985, and it continues to be a landmark program in federal support for university research and education in partnership with industry. These centers provide an environment where academe and industry focus together on advances in complex engineered systems that can transform industrial processes and/or develop whole new product lines important for the Nation's future. They create an interdisciplinary culture that joins discovery to innovation and explores technological realities through proof-of-concept testbeds. Now in their third generation, ERCs establish innovation ecosystems, which include: partnerships with center member firms/practitioners to strengthen the ERC and streamline technology transfer; translational research partnerships with small firms to accelerate commercialization of high risk ERC advancements; and innovation partnerships with local organizations to stimulate entrepreneurship and job creation as well as enable technological innovation. For more information, please visit the Division's website at <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?org=EEC>.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Foundation's overall mission to support innovative and merit-evaluated activities in fundamental research and education that contribute to the nation's technological strength, security and welfare. The positions require a commitment to high standards of intellectualism and ethical conduct, a considerable breadth of interest, receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity. Program Directors are in charge of specific research areas. They solicit, receive and review research and education proposals, make funding recommendations and administer awards. They are also responsible for interaction with other Federal agencies, forming and guiding interagency collaborations, and for service to Foundation-wide activities.

The successful candidate will be a member of the team of Program Directors and staff responsible for the selection and post-award oversight of ERCs. This team works under the supervision and guidance of the Leader of the ERC Program. The position combines ERC program level functions in post-award oversight and assessment with responsibility for selected centers in biological and biomedical engineering. In addition, the incumbent will be responsible for the oversight of one Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center focused on biomedical engineering and another award focused on developing tools for modeling and simulation of nanobiological phenomena, as a part of the Network for Computational Nanotechnology, among other activities.

The Program Director position recruited under this announcement may be filled under the following rotational programs:

**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

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