



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

IIP 17-004

**Dear Colleague Letter: Directorate for Engineering (ENG), Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP), Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) - Employment Opportunity for Program Director Position (Open Until Filled)**

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June 5, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

The Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) announces a nationwide search to fill the Program Director position for the Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program. PFI has five broad goals: (1) identifying and supporting research and technologies that have the potential for commercialization; (2) supporting researchers, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations that partner with an institution of higher education in undertaking proof-of-concept work, including development of prototypes of technologies that are derived from research and have potential market value; (3) promoting sustainable partnerships between research institutions, industry, and other organizations within academia and the private sector with the purpose of accelerating the transfer of technology; (4) developing multi-disciplinary innovation ecosystems which involve and are responsive to specific needs of academia and industry; and (5) catalyzing professional development, mentoring, and advice in entrepreneurship and technology translation to faculty, students and post-docs.

Formal consideration of interested applications will begin **June 15, 2017** and will continue until a selection is made.

At this time, NSF is seeking a Program Director to join the PFI team. The PFI team will evolve and manage the PFI program and solicitations within the context of the overall IIP mission and PFI goals.

Program Directors have an unparalleled opportunity and responsibility to ensure NSF-funded research is at the forefront of advancing fundamental knowledge. In support of that, Program Directors are responsible for extensive interaction with academic research communities and industry, as well as interaction with other Federal agencies that may lead to development of interagency collaborations. Within this context, Program Directors solicit, receive and review research and education proposals, make funding recommendations, administer awards, and undertake interaction with research communities in these fields. They are also responsible for

service to Foundation-wide activities and initiatives that together accomplish NSF's strategic goals to: 1) Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering, 2) Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs through Research and Education, and 3) Excel as a Federal Science Agency.

Persons wishing to apply for this position are referred to the IIP Divisional web page, <https://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=iip>, for a description of the Division; and to [https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=504790](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504790) for a description of the PFI program.

**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.

Qualifications of a successful candidate include a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in a discipline funded by NSF, plus after the award of the Ph.D., six or more years of successful research, research administration and or/substantial managerial experience in academe, industry, or government. Professional experience in technology research and development activities in individual and collaborative frameworks is desirable. 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 an individual within the specific NSF program and as a member of crosscutting and interactive teams. The incumbent must also demonstrate a capability to work within NSF and across government agencies to promote NSF activities and to leverage program funds through interagency collaborations.

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

**Visiting Scientist, Engineer or Educator (VSEE) Appointment:** A VSEE appointment 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 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. Appointments are usually made for one year 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 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. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please visit:

<https://www.nsf.gov/careers/rotator/>.

Applications will be accepted from US Citizens. Recent changes in Federal Appropriations Law require Non-Citizens to meet certain eligibility criteria to be considered. Therefore, Non-Citizens must certify eligibility by signing and attaching this [Citizenship Affidavit](#) to their application. Non-citizens who do not provide the affidavit at the time of application will be considered as an IPA only. We also ask that you complete and submit the Applicant Survey Form. This will help NSF to ensure that our recruiting efforts are attracting a diverse candidate pool; it will be used for statistical purposes only.

**NSF is relocating to Alexandria, VA. In late summer of 2017, NSF will begin the transition from its current location in Arlington, VA to 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314. The new location is adjacent to a Metro station (Eisenhower Avenue on the Yellow Line) and there is ample parking in the area. There are several amenities nearby, such as restaurants, hotels, and shops.**

Applicants should send a copy of their CV and a cover letter explaining the reasons they are interested in the position. This letter should describe how their experiences fit with the position of PFI program officer (referencing the CV), why this position would be of mutual benefit to NSF and to their institutions, and how they foresee this assignment benefiting their careers. Please send application materials and questions to the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships via email to [gnarcho@nsf.gov](mailto:gnarcho@nsf.gov) with "PFI Program Director" in the subject line.

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