Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring

Recognizing and Rewarding Excellence in STEM Mentoring Since 1995

2020–2021 Application Packet

Competition Opens: September 1, 2020

Nomination Deadline: December 18th, 2020

Application Deadline: January 24th, 2021

All application materials must be submitted online at www.paesmem.net

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

PAESMEM Application Packet 2020–2021
Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring

Each year, the President of the United States recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) mentoring across the Nation and bestows upon them the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). Significant contributions to mentoring support the future productivity of the U.S. STEM workforce. The PAESMEM program was created in 1995 to identify and recognize those who have contributed outstanding efforts in mentoring and have enhanced the participation of individuals across a wide demographic array, especially those who might not otherwise have considered or had access to opportunities in STEM disciplines and professions.

Over 300 individuals and organizations have received this distinguished Presidential recognition, serving as exemplars to their colleagues and leaders in the national effort to develop the nation’s human resources in STEM fields.

The PAESMEM alumni community’s mentoring accomplishments reinforce the efforts of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to promote significant contributions to the STEM enterprise by members of the public and to broaden the educational and career participation of individuals across STEM.

PAESMEM is one of two awards that the Excellence Awards in Science and Engineering (EASE) Program at NSF manages on behalf of OSTP. The other award is the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (www.paemst.org).

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2020–2021 Program Information

Nomination and Application

There are two PAESMEM award categories: Individual and Organizational.

By completing a nomination form on the PAESMEM website (www.paesmem.net), anyone—colleagues, mentees, or other members of the public—may nominate exceptional individuals and/or organizations that mentor underrepresented populations in STEM. To submit a nomination, complete the nomination form available on the PAESMEM website. This form requires the mentor’s name, employer, and email address. A nominator may nominate one or more individuals or organizations. Nominations must be submitted through the PAESMEM website by midnight, Hawaiian Aleutian time on December 18, 2020.

Individual and organizational mentors that have been nominated will receive an invitation to begin the application process. The invitation will include a username and password for accessing the online application system. Individual and organizational mentors may also initiate the application process themselves at www.paesmem.net.

More than one individual, program, or center may apply from the same organization or institution; however, the same person may not submit applications for both the individual and organization award categories. More details are laid out in the following Eligibility section. Applications must be submitted through the PAESMEM website by midnight, Hawaii Aleutian time on January 24th, 2021.
Eligibility

Individuals and organizations in all public and private sectors are eligible for PAESMEM, including industry, academia, primary or secondary education, military, government, non-profit organizations, and foundations. Exceptional STEM or STEM-related mentoring in both formal and informal settings which enhances the participation of individuals across a wide demographic array, especially for those who might not otherwise have considered or had access to opportunities in STEM, are eligible for PAESMEM. Applications are encouraged from all geographical regions in the U.S. including the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity schools, and the U.S. jurisdictions including American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Applications are strongly encouraged from jurisdictions designated by Congress under NSF’s Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).

Individual Applicants
An Individual applicant must:
• work in industry, academia, primary or secondary education, military, government, non-profit organizations, or foundations (Nominees may be federal government employees except for those identified in the U.S. Code Title 5)
• must have at least five years of sustained, exceptional mentoring with demonstrated impact on individuals historically underrepresented in STEM*
• be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
• not be a current Organizational applicant
• not have received the PAESMEM award as an Individual applicant in any prior competition
• not have received the PAESMEM award as an Organizational applicant in the past 10 years

Organizational Applicants
An Organizational applicant must:
• be affiliated with an industry, U.S. educational institution or agency, military, government, non-profit organization, or foundation
• must have at least five years of sustained, exceptional mentoring with demonstrated impact on individuals historically underrepresented in STEM*
• may be a mentoring program or activity within an organization
• not be a current Individual applicant
• not have received the PAESMEM award as an Organizational applicant in the past 10 years

*Groups that are historically underrepresented in STEM include:
• women
• persons with disabilities
• racial and ethnic minorities (African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders)
• Individuals from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds

Mentees from the groups above can be undergraduate or graduate students, teachers, or early career scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and/or other STEM or STEM-related professionals. Early career STEM or STEM-related professionals include those from all public and private sectors who are: post-associate, post-baccalaureate, post-masters, post-doctoral, new STEM faculty, new STEM K–12 teachers (both pre- and in-service), as well as new hires in an industry, foundation, non-profit organization, military, or government agency.
Review Criteria

Mentorship is a professional, working alliance in which individuals work together over time to support the personal and professional growth, development, and success of the relational partners through the provision of career and psychosocial support. Applications will be evaluated on the following Dimensions of Outstanding Mentoring (also referred to as Dimensions) which were drawn from contemporary research and practice (Garringer, M., Kupersmidt, J., Rhodes, J., Stelter, R., & Tai, T, 2015; Kupersmidt, J., Stelter, R., Garringer, M., & Bourgoin, J., 2018; National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 2019; AAAS, 2019). These apply for both Individual and Organizational applications.

Dimension 1: Mentoring Philosophy and Strategies

1a. **Provide your mentoring philosophy and its impact on mentors and mentees.** Discuss any literature and models that have been key in the evolution of your mentoring viewpoints, strategies, and tactics. Include evidence-based guidelines, tools, and processes that set clear expectations for your mentees.

   - *Explain how your philosophy impacts mentors and mentees alike.* What are the elements of integrated training that create a mutually beneficial mentor relationship?
   - *Provide expectations for mentees based on your philosophy.* Do your mentees avail themselves of the evidence-based tools and strategies that you have introduced?

1b. **Describe your targeted mentee population and the methods by which you create a supportive community to prepare them for future success.** Consider how you incorporate information on school or workplace norms and behaviors in culturally responsive and empowering ways; communicate a meaningful passion for STEM work and strong sense of purpose for participating in STEM career; and address stereotypes, implicit bias, microaggressions, and intersectionality. This section should include the reason for targeting the chosen population of mentees:

   - group historically underrepresented in STEM
   - undergraduate or graduate students, teachers, or early career scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and/or other STEM or STEM-related professionals

1c. **Describe mentoring strategies and activities you use to support underrepresented groups in STEM.** Explain the specific STEM-related activities and skills your mentees develop from your mentorship? In your response:

   - Consider your ability to develop supportive respectful relationships, share your personal STEM experience, connect with demographic or background of mentees, advocate for your mentees, and promote mentees sense of belonging, self-efficacy, and identity in STEM.
   - Include a brief description of your qualifications as a mentor, including current employment and the number of years you have spent mentoring.

Dimension 2: Assessment and Outcomes

2a. **Provide the mentoring characteristics you assess.** Discuss the impact of your mentoring with respect to the essential characteristics outlined in Dimension 1. What are you measuring to determine mentees’ successful preparation and advancement in their education and/or early career pursuits?

   - Consider the impact of your mentoring on mentees’ STEM identity and sense of belonging, STEM related self-efficacy, preparation for potentially marginalizing experiences mentees may face in future careers and/or current environments, measuring STEM academic performance, and commitment to STEM education and careers.
2b. **Describe how you measure mentoring success.** Discuss systematic review of formal mentorship activities and programs to determine how, and if, you are meeting the evolving needs of mentees as they move through an educational or early career context.

- Consider student and early-career faculty success and well-being, identifying stages of mentoring relationships and how you are meeting the evolving needs of mentees in support of their work and professional development, providing a forum to showcase mentees’ work, making connections to STEM professionals, and involving different stakeholders groups.
- Share data on mentee performance and accomplishments. Include quantitative information on the impact of the mentoring, including the number and general demographics of mentees, personally mentored students, trainees, and/or early career scientists and engineers. Provide summary aggregate demographic information on mentees instead of actual names. Also provide information about mentee outcomes, such as academic achievement, retention, degree attainment, research productivity, career placement, career satisfaction, promotion, attainment of leadership roles, etc.
- How well did the mentoring activity broaden the participation and retention of individuals who might not otherwise have considered or had access to opportunities in STEM?

2c. **Discuss how you advocate for and conduct research and assessment in STEM mentoring.** What connections have you made with STEM stakeholders in this respect? Discuss what a research study on mentoring practices and assessment would look like. What metric would indicate your success in sustaining your mentoring relationships?

- Explain your strategies for checking alignment with stated program goals and missions, ensuring a culture of accountability.

**Dimension 3: Reflective Practice**

3a. **Discuss the more successful and less successful aspects of your mentoring program.** Reflect on how your biases may affect mentees and mentoring relationships, specifically for mentorship of underrepresented mentees.

3b. **Discuss how you intentionally consider culture-based dynamics.** What inclusive approaches do you consider important in working toward cultural responsiveness, moving beyond “colorblindness,” and addressing the imposter syndrome to avoid negatively influencing mentoring relationships?

3c. **Describe how your reflective practice has improved your mentoring and enhanced your mentees’ experience.** What changes have you made to improve your mentorship program?

**Dimension 4: Leadership and Sustainability**

4a. **Describe your mentoring leadership within your institution or organization.** Consider how you have influenced policies, procedures, and other infrastructure to support mentoring, and provided opportunities for others to engage in mentoring.

4b. **Describe your mentoring leadership beyond your institution or organization.** Consider how you have supported engagement in mentoring relationships outside of your institution or organization, such as professional societies, external conferences, learning communities, and online networks.

- How have you improved outreach on mentoring through publications, presentations, social media, webinars, and/or research?
- Have you received awards that are mentoring-specific?
- Describe any innovative or potentially transformative mentoring activities developed and implemented that could be adopted by others.
4c. Discuss sustainability of your mentoring program. Consider any well-defined indicators of or commitments to sustainability, such as grants supporting your program, structural changes at your institution, publications, or development of local/regional/national networks with which you collaborate.

Review Process
Selection committees will include outstanding scientists, mathematicians, engineers, STEM education researchers, STEM educators, and other STEM or STEM-related professionals. These committees will review applications and make recommendations to NSF.

NSF will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate the recommendations for both Individual and Organizational awardees. After review and consideration of appropriate factors, NSF will provide its recommendations to the Director of OSTP for final selection. All awardees will be subject to a Federal Bureau of Investigation background check.

Applicants that do not win the award are encouraged to reapply. Applicants are encouraged to examine feedback from the review process and update their application accordingly. Eligibility will need to be confirmed each year, and Letters of Recommendation will be valid for 2 years. The PAESMEM applicant portal includes a “Previous Application” tab which enables applicants to copy different application components from a previous year into the current cycle. Applicants must review the updated application packet to ensure that any changes to the application, particularly the narrative section, are addressed in their responses. For the current year, you will not be able to copy over your written response as the requirements have changed significantly.

Recognition
Each Presidential Awardee receives a certificate signed by the President of the United States and a $10,000 award from NSF. In addition, Awardees join a national cohort of award-winning mentors, providing opportunities to impact mentoring on a national scale. Awardees are honored at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. Additional events may include professional development opportunities and discussions with policy-makers about how to improve STEM mentoring. There is no fixed annual date for the award announcement or for scheduling the recognition ceremony.


Application Components

I. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT
The Administrative Component includes a Mentor Information Form, an Organizational Representative Confirmation Form (for Organizational applicants only), Letters of Recommendation, Résumé, and a voluntary Demographic Information Form. All these forms are completed on the online application portal at www.paesmem.net.

Mentor Information Form
Applicants provide information about themselves, their employer, and their mentoring work in the Mentor Information Form. For Organizational applicants, the information will be entered for the individual who is completing the application on behalf of the Organization.

Organizational Representative Confirmation Form
For Organizational applicants only, enter the name and contact information for the head of the organization, and the name of the organizational representative who would represent the organization at an awards ceremony. An email will be sent to the head of the organization with instructions for completing the form. By completing the form, the head of the organization will confirm that the representative listed is the correct person to represent the organization at an awards ceremony if the organization is selected as an awardee. If someone other than the applicant will represent the organization at the award ceremony, their name must be provided, and their résumé must be one of the up to three résumés included in the application.

Letters of Recommendation
Three letters of recommendation are required and can be provided by mentees, colleagues, or anyone else familiar with the individual's or organization's mentoring work. Applicants provide contact information for each recommender, who then each receive a system-generated email with instructions about how to submit the recommendation. This automated email will also advise the recommender to address how the applicants meet the Dimensions of Outstanding Mentoring within the letter. There is no required format for letters of recommendation or support. The applicant should review the letter of recommendation before submitting the final application to assure that the relationship of the recommender to the applicant is clear.

Résumé
A résumé is required. The résumé must outline the applicant’s education, employment history, mentoring history (showing at least five years of mentoring experience), and, if applicable, participation in professional development activities. Organizational applicants should include the résumé for the individual submitting the application on the organization’s behalf, and they may include up to two additional résumés for other representatives of the organization.

There are no specific formatting requirements for the résumé, but the document must not exceed two pages and font size is to be 12. If the professional résumé is longer than two pages, it must be edited down to conform to the length requirement. Applications with a résumé longer than two pages are subject to return without review.

Demographic Information Form
Submission of the Demographic Information Form is voluntary and is not a precondition to receiving an award. We encourage nominees to provide the demographic information to assist in program analysis. The information is not disclosed to review committee members and is used internally for analysis of applicant characteristics and geographic distribution.
II. NARRATIVE COMPONENT
The Narrative Component consists of the Written Response that addresses the Dimensions of Outstanding Mentoring, Supplemental Materials, References Cited, and Publications. The Dimensions are provided under the Review Criteria section.

Written Response
The Written Response must include the Application Abstract along with the applicant’s responses to each of the Dimensions of Outstanding Mentoring. The Abstract must not exceed 3,000 characters, including spaces, while the response to the Dimensions must not exceed 22,000 characters, including spaces.

Application Abstract
For both Individual and Organizational applicants, the Application Abstract must include a brief description of the mentor’s current employment and a brief overview of mentoring activity. Organizational applicants should briefly describe the organization. A full narrative and supporting evidence for mentoring activities should be submitted in the section of the Written Response.

Response to the Dimensions of Outstanding Mentoring
Individual and Organizational applicants must answer all prompts and sub-prompts within this section. The Response to the Dimensions of Outstanding Mentoring is limited to 22,000 characters in total, including spaces. The applicant may distribute these characters however they wish across the Dimensions.

Technical Specifications for the Written Response
There are no formatting requirements for the Written Response. It is recommended that applicants save responses outside of the portal to ensure work is not lost. Use of the Dimensions of Outstanding Mentoring Template, which can be found in the applicant portal, is helpful to capture Dimension responses. Responses can then be copied and pasted from the template into text boxes within the portal. Responses can also be entered directly in the portal.

Recommended Strategy for Completing the Written Response
Although responses can be entered directly in the portal, it is recommended that applicants save responses outside of the portal to ensure that work is not lost. Responses can then be copied and pasted into the provided text boxes within the portal. Once the Written Response has been entered into the text boxes, the system will automatically create a single document. The finished product will be automatically double-spaced, in the correct font size, and with the correct margins. It will also include the applicant’s Mentor ID number and name in the footer of each page. Any special characters or formatting such as bolding, formulas, underlining, and indenting will disappear when responses are pasted into the text boxes within the portal. It is recommended that, if needed, special characters, formulas, diagrams, or charts be included in the Supplemental Materials section and referenced in your written response.

Supplemental Materials
The application may include a supplemental information document, not exceeding five pages, that provides supporting evidence for the Written Response. Supplemental Materials may include program assessment items, evaluation studies or reports, mentoring-related publication excerpts, images, screenshots from websites, news articles, evidence of awards and accolades, etc.

If Supplemental Materials is more than five pages, it must be edited down to conform to the length requirement. Applications with a supplemental section longer than five pages are subject to return without review.

Technical Specifications for Supplemental Materials
Supplemental Materials:
• must be submitted as one single file that does not exceed five pages
• must not be a continuation of the administrative or written response component. For example, it
may not include additional letters of recommendations;
• should be labeled with applicant name, Mentor ID, and page number on every page;
• should be referenced within the written response (such as SM Page 1, etc.); and
• may be submitted to the PAESMEM portal in any of the following formats: Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf), Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Files (.rtf), or Image Files (.gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .png).

References Cited
Cited sources within the written responses should be captured in a document not exceeding one page. References may include books, articles, and/or multimedia that were used to support the applicant’s narrative.

While there is no specific format required for the References Cited section, applicants should follow accepted scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials. In general, each reference should include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. If a website address is readily available, that information should be included in the citation. The references cited should not be used to list out the applicant’s publications, unless they relate to mentoring.

Technical Specifications for References Cited
References:
• must be submitted as one single file not exceeding one page;
• must include references or citations to attribute unoriginal work to the correct sources;
• should be labeled with applicant name and Mentor ID;
• do not have to follow a specific citation format (APA, MLA, etc.), but be consistent with style chosen
• may be submitted in any of the following formats: Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf), Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Files (.rtf), or Image Files (.gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .png);
• may not be a list of works that you have published unless they relate to mentoring;
• may not be a list of additional references to contact

Publications
The application may include an optional publications document, not exceeding one page, that provides publications authored or coauthored by the applicant. The publications provided should be those that are most relevant and supportive of the application.

Technical Specifications for Publications
Publications:
• must be submitted as one single file not exceeding one page;
• do not have to follow a specific citation format (APA, MLA, etc.), but be consistent with style chosen;
• may be submitted in the following formats: Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf), Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Files (.rtf), or Image Files (.gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .png);
• may not be a list of additional references to contact

Program Officers:

Please note that the following information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

Robert Mayes, telephone: (703) 292-7267, email: rmayes@nsf.gov
1. I mentor a group of individuals who belong to a historically underrepresented in STEM, that was not listed in the eligibility section, am I eligible for the PAESMEM award?

   A: Historically underrepresented groups can include but are not limited to: women, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities (African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders). Individuals from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds are also eligible mentees. If you mentor a group that is not listed or you have any questions, please email info@paesmem.net.

2. Do you offer informational webinars during the application process?

   A: Yes. Please check the PAESMEM website at www.paesmem.net/webinar for a schedule of webinars offered throughout the year. Once scheduled, invitations to attend are also emailed to nominees and applicants. Webinars are not recorded; however, the webinar slides may be found under the Tools and Resources tab within the application portal.

3. When are applications due?

   A: The application deadline is midnight Hawaii Aleutian Time on January 24th, 2021. That is 6:00am Eastern Time on January 25th.

4. What is the difference between the References Cited section and the Publications section of the application?

   A: The References Cited component of the application refers to works and publications that an applicant uses to complete the narrative component of the application. All outside work that is used within your application must be cited. The Publications component of the application refers to works or publications that the applicant has either authored or coauthored that more broadly support their mentoring claims within the application.

5. How do you recommend that I condense my 6-page resume down to 2 pages?

   A: Your resume should highlight your education, employment history, mentoring history and professional development that supports your overall application and demonstrates your experiences within STEM mentoring. The resumes are reviewed to ensure that you have at least 5 years of mentoring to ensure that you are eligible.

6. My Letters of Recommendation are listed as “pending” on the PAEMST portal, but my writers told me they were uploaded. Are my letters complete?

   A: If your letters are shown as pending, they are not complete. “Pending” means that your letter writers have not yet successfully completed their letters via the PAESMEM portal. They may have forgotten to sign the letter and/or press the Submit button. Recommenders must click on the original link they received to complete the recommendation. If a letter of recommendation request was resent, the recommender must use the most recent link they received.

7. I am having trouble uploading my file to my online application. What should I do?

   A: Be sure that your file is in one of the following formats: Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf), Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Files (.rtf), or Image Files (.gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .png). If you are still unable to upload your files, please contact our technical support staff at info@paesmem.net.
8. I do not plan to submit Supplemental Materials but my Supplemental Materials section still says, "not started". How do I indicate that this section is complete?

A: Click on the Supplemental Materials section. Mark the checkbox at the bottom that says, "I do not intend to include any Supplemental Materials" and then click on Save. This section should now be marked as complete.

9. Can I include links within my Supplemental Materials section?

A: There is no rule prohibiting an applicant from providing links within their supplemental materials section however, reviewers are not required to click on any links.

10. My References Cited section still says, "not started". How do I indicate that this section is complete?

A: Click on the References Cited section. Mark the checkbox at the bottom that says, "I do not intend to include any Reference Page" and then click on Save. This section should now be marked as complete.

11. If my application is not selected for a PAESMEM award, how long do I have to wait before reapplying?

A: Applications are valid for two years after the date of submission, but must be updated to address any changes in the Application Packet. If you choose to reapply the following year, you may use elements of the same application. If you choose to reapply more than two years after your original submission, you must begin a new application.

12. I need technical help, whom can I contact?

A: Technical assistance is available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
   a. Email: info@paesmem.net
   b. Telephone: (855) 723-6780
About The National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF or the Foundation) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K–12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations, and other research organizations throughout the U.S. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF receives approximately 55,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects, of which approximately 11,000 are funded. In addition, the Foundation receives thousands of applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. NSF operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, user facilities, certain oceanographic vessels, and Arctic and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry, U.S. participation in international scientific and engineering efforts, and educational activities at every academic level.
Privacy Act and Public Burden Statements

The information requested on the application materials is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. It will be used in connection with the selection of qualified applicants and may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process; to the institution the nominee, applicant or fellow is attending or is planning to attend or is employed by for the purpose of facilitating review or award decisions, or administering fellowships or awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing data regarding applicants or nominees as part of the proposal review process, or in order to coordinate programs; to congressional officials for the purpose of congratulating awardees; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information from this system may be merged with other computer files to carry out statistical studies the results of which do not identify individuals. Notice of the agency's decision may be given to nominators, and disclosure may be made of awardees' names, home institutions, and fields of study for public information purposes. For fellows or awardees receiving stipends directly from the government, information is transmitted to the Department of the Treasury to make payments. See System of Records, NSF-12, "Fellowships and Other Awards," 63 Federal Register 265 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary; however, failure to provide full and complete information may reduce the possibility of your receiving an award.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 12 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer; Office of the General Counsel; National Science Foundation; Alexandria, VA 22314.

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.

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