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7555-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Renew an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request renewal of this collection. In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), we are providing an opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting that OMB approve clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the information collection and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National

Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1265, Arlington, VA 22230, or by e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone 703-292-7556; or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

TITLE of COLLECTION: National Science Foundation-Managed Honorary Awards

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0035

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2014.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to renew an information collection for three years.

Abstract: The National Science Foundation (NSF) administers several honorary awards, among them the President's National Medal of Science, the Alan T. Waterman Award, the National Science Board (NSB) Vannevar Bush Award, the NSB Public Service Award, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science,

Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) program, and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program.

In 2003, to comply with E-government requirements, the nomination processes were converted to electronic submission through the National Science Foundation's (NSF) FastLane system or via other electronic systems as described in the individual nomination process. Individuals can now prepare nominations and references through www.fastlane.nsf.gov/honawards/. First-time users must register on the Fastlane Web site using the link found in the upper right-hand corner above the "Log In" box before accessing any of the honorary award categories. The nominations for PAESMEM also may be submitted via www.grants.gov. Nominations and applications are submitted on the PAEMST portal at www.PAEMST.org.

Use of the Information: The Foundation has the following honorary award programs:

- **President's National Medal of Science**. Statutory authority for the President's National Medal of Science is contained in 42 U.S.C. 1881 (Pub. L. 86-209), which established the award and stated that "(t)he President shall . . . award the Medal on the

recommendations received from the National Academy of Sciences or on the basis of such other information and evidence as . . . appropriate."

Subsequently, Executive Order 10961 specified procedures for the Award by establishing a National Medal of Science Committee which would "receive recommendations made by any other nationally representative scientific or engineering organization." On the basis of these recommendations, the Committee was directed to select its candidates and to forward its recommendations to the President.

In 1962, to comply with these directives, the Committee initiated a solicitation form letter to invite these nominations. In 1979, the Committee initiated a nomination form as an attachment to the solicitation letter. A slightly modified version of the nomination form was used in 1980.

The Committee has established the following considerations for selection of candidates:

a. The impact of an individual's body of work on the current state of his or her field of science or engineering;

b. Whether the individual's achievements are of an unusually significant nature in relation to the potential effects on the development of thought in his or her field of science or engineering;

c. Whether the nominee has demonstrated unusually distinguished service in the general advancement of science and/or engineering for the Nation, especially when accompanied by substantial contributions to the content of science;

d. The recognition of the nominee by peers within his or her community, and whether s/he is recognized for substantial impact in fields in addition to his/her discipline;

e. If the nominee has made contributions to innovation and industry;

f. Whether the nominee has demonstrated sustained influence on education through publications, teaching activities, outreach, mentoring, etc., and;

g. Whether the nominee's contributions have created significant positive impact for the Nation.

In 2003, the Committee changed the active period of eligibility to three years, including the year of nomination. After that time, candidates must be renominated with a new nomination package for them to be considered by the Committee.

Narratives are now restricted to three pages of text, as stipulated in the guidelines at: https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/honawards/medalHome.do

- **Alan T. Waterman Award**. Congress established the Alan T. Waterman Award in August 1975 (42 U.S.C. 1881a (Pub. L. 94-86) and authorized NSF to "establish the Alan T. Waterman Award for research or advanced study in any of the sciences or engineering" to mark the 25th anniversary of the National Science Foundation and to honor its first Director. The annual award recognizes an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering supported by NSF. In addition to a medal, the awardee receives a grant of $1,000,000 over a five-year period for scientific research or advanced study in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, engineering, social, or other sciences at the institution of the recipient's choice.

The Alan T. Waterman Award Committee was established by NSF to comply with the directive contained in Public Law 94-86. The Committee solicits nominations from members of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, scientific and technical organizations, and any other source, public or private, as appropriate.

In 1976, the Committee initiated a form letter to solicit these nominations. In 1980, a nomination form was used which standardized the nomination procedures, allowed for more effective Committee review, and permitted better staff work in a short period of time. On the basis of its review, the Committee forwards its recommendation to the Director, NSF, and the National Science Board (NSB).

Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must be 35 years of age or younger or not more than seven years beyond receipt of the Ph.D. degree by December 31 of the year in which they are nominated. Candidates should have demonstrated exceptional individual achievements in scientific or engineering research of sufficient quality to place them at the forefront of their peers. Criteria include originality, innovation, and significant impact on the field.

- **Vannevar Bush Award**. The NSB established the Vannevar Bush Award in 1980 to honor Dr. Bush's unique

contributions to public service. The award recognizes an individual who, through public service activities in science and technology, has made an outstanding "contribution toward the welfare of mankind and the Nation."

The NSB *ad hoc* Committee on Honorary Awards annually solicits nominations from science, engineering and educational societies. A candidate must be a senior stateperson who is an American citizen and meets two or more of the following criteria:

1. Distinguished himself/herself through public service activities in science and technology.
2. Pioneered the exploration, charting, and settlement of new frontiers in science, technology, education, and public service.
3. Demonstrated leadership and creativity that have inspired others to distinguished careers in science and technology.
4. Contributed to the welfare of the Nation and mankind through activities in science and technology.
5. Demonstrated leadership and creativity that have helped mold the history of advancements in the Nation's science, technology, and education.

Nominations must include a narrative description about the nominee, a curriculum vitae (without publications), and a brief citation summarizing the nominee's scientific or technological contributions to our national welfare in promotion of the progress of science. Nominations must also include two reference letters, submitted separate from the nomination through www.fastlane.nsf.gov/honawards/ Nominations remain active for three years, including the year of nomination. After that time, candidates must be renominated with a new nomination for them to be considered by the selection committee.

- **NSB Public Service Award**. The NSB Public Service Award Committee was established in November 1996. This annual award recognizes people and organizations that have increased the public understanding of science or engineering. The award is given to an individual and to a group (company, corporation, or organization), but not to members of the U.S. Government.

Eligibility includes any individual or group (company, corporation, or organization) that has increased the public understanding of science or engineering. Members of the U.S. Government are not eligible for consideration.

Candidates for the individual and group (company, corporation, or organization) award must have made contributions to public service in areas other than research, and should meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Increased the public's understanding of the processes of science and engineering through scientific discovery, innovation and its communication to the public.
2. Encouraged others to help raise the public understanding of science and technology.
3. Promoted the engagement of scientists and engineers in public outreach and scientific literacy.
4. Contributed to the development of broad science and engineering policy and its support.
5. Influenced and encouraged the next generation of scientists+ and engineers.
6. Achieved broad recognition outside the nominee's area of specialization.
7. Fostered awareness of science and technology among broad segments of the population.

Nominations must include a summary of the candidate's activities as they relate to the selection criteria; the nominator's name, address and telephone number; the name,

address, and telephone number of the nominee; and the candidate's vita, if appropriate (no more than three pages).

The selection committee recommends the most outstanding candidate(s) for each category to the NSB, which approves the awardees.

Nominations remain active for a period of three years, including the year of nomination. After that time, candidates must be renominated with a new nomination for them to be considered by the selection committee.

- **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) program**

In 1996, the White House, through the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), established the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) program. The program, administered on behalf of the White House by the National Science Foundation, seeks to identify outstanding mentoring efforts or programs designed to enhance the participation of groups (women, minorities and persons with disabilities as well as

groups from low socioeconomic regions) underrepresented in science, mathematics and engineering. The awardees will serve as exemplars to their colleagues and will be leaders in the national effort to more fully develop the Nation's human resources in science, mathematics and engineering. This award is managed at NSF by the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR).

The award will be made to U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents based on the following: (1) an individual who has demonstrated outstanding and sustained mentoring and effective guidance to a significant number of early career STEM professionals, students at the K-12, undergraduate, or graduate education level or (2) to an organization that, through its programming, has enabled a substantial number of students underrepresented in science, mathematics and engineering to successfully pursue and complete the relevant degree programs as well as mentoring of early career STEM professionals. Nominees must have served in a mentoring role for at least five years. Nominations are reviewed for impact, significance of the mentoring activity and quality of the mentoring activity. Nominations for organizational awards must

demonstrate rigorous evaluation and/or assessment during the five-year period of the mentoring activity.

Award Ceremony

The awardees are hosted for two days in Washington, DC, for celebratory activities. Recipients of the PAESMEM award receive a monetary award in the amount of $10,000 from NSF and a commemorative Presidential certificate. If scheduling permits, the President meets with the mentors for a photo opportunity at the White House. The Director of OSTP and the Director of NSF present the awards to the mentors at an awards ceremony.

- **Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Enacted by Congress in 1983, this program authorizes the President to bestow 108 awards, assuming there are qualified applicants. In even-numbered years, nominations are accepted for elementary teachers (grades K-6); in odd-numbered years, secondary teachers (grades 7-12)

are nominated. This award is managed at NSF by the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR).

Nomination Criteria

A teacher may be nominated by a principal, another teacher, students, members of the community, or the general public. Self-nominations are allowed. Awardees must be either U.S. Citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents. A Nominee must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Be highly qualified as deemed by their states, districts, or schools;
- Teach in one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the four U.S. territories, including the Department of Defense Schools (DoDEA).
- Hold a degree or appropriate credentials in the category for which they are applying.
- Be a full-time employee of the school or school district.
- Have at least 5 years of mathematics or science teaching (including computer science) experience prior to application.

- Teach mathematics or science at the kindergarten through 6th grade level or at the 7th through 12th grade level in a public or private school.

- Not have received the national PAEMST award in any prior competition or category.

Application Process

- Applicants complete a 12-page written document on five dimensions of outstanding teaching (content knowledge, pedagogy, assessment, leadership and professional development) and submit a video of one class. Three letters of reference including one from a school official are required, along with a resume or biographical sketch.
- The applicant has a 7-month period (October to May) to complete applications and submit them for state review. The nomination period is from October to April.

Review of Nominations

- State coordinators convene state selection committees of prominent mathematicians, scientists, mathematics and science educators, and past awardees to select up to five mathematics and five science finalists for recognition at the state level and for submission to NSF. To ensure

consistency, state selection committees review their applications using the same criteria and scoring information that was approved by OSTP.

- NSF (EHR) convenes a National Selection Committee of prominent mathematicians, scientists, mathematics and science educators, and past awardees that review the application packets of the state finalists and make recommendations to NSF. NSF reviews these recommendations and recommends one awardee in both mathematics and science for all eligible jurisdictions, when possible, to OSTP. Alternatively, NSF may recommend two awardees from a discipline in a jurisdiction, when warranted.

Award Ceremony

The awardees are hosted for 3-4 days in Washington, DC, for a variety of professional development sessions and celebratory activities. Each awardee receives a citation signed by the President and $10,000 from NSF. If scheduling permits, the President meets the teachers for a photo opportunity at the White House. The Director of OSTP and the Director of NSF present the citations to the teachers at an awards ceremony. Awardees also have the opportunity

to meet their congressional representatives and education representatives from other federal agencies.

Estimate of Burden: These are annual award programs with application deadlines varying according to the program. Public burden also may vary according to program; however, across all the programs, it is estimated that each submission will average 19 hours per respondent. If the nominator is thoroughly familiar with the disciplinary background of the nominee, time spent to complete the nomination may be considerably reduced.

Respondents: Individuals, businesses or other for-profit organizations, universities, non-profit institutions, and Federal and State governments.

Estimated Number of Responses per Award: 1782 responses, broken down as follows: For the President's National Medal of Science, 80; for the Alan T. Waterman Award, 70; for the Vannevar Bush Award, 12; for the Public Service Award, 20; for the PAESMEM, 200; and 1400 for the PAEMST.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 41,080 hours, broken down by 1,600 hours for the President's National Medal of Science (20 hours per 80

respondents); 1,400 hours for the Alan T. Waterman Award (20 hours per 70 respondents); 180 hours for the Vannevar Bush Award (15 hours per 12 respondents); 300 hours for the Public Service Award (15 hours per 20 respondents); 4,000 hours for the PAESMEM (20 hours per 200 respondents); and 33,600 hours for the PAEMST (24 hours per 1400 respondents).

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: April 7, 2014.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer,

National Science Foundation.

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