



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VA 22230**

Division of Atmospheric Sciences  
Program Director Positions  
Employment Opportunities—Dear Colleague Letter

June 6, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Atmospheric Sciences (ATM) announces a search to fill a number of Program Director positions at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

These positions are open **until filled**. Several positions are available in ATM or will be available in the near future. Program Directors are sought with expertise in the following areas: aeronomy, atmospheric chemistry, climate and large-scale dynamics, meteorology, lower atmosphere observational facilities, biogeochemical cycles and other interdisciplinary topics in atmospheric research, and cyber-enabled discovery in Atmospheric Science.

ATM manages a range of grant programs that add new understandings of solar, oceanic, terrestrial and social forcings on the dynamics, composition and evolution and variability of the atmosphere. Included are studies of the physics, chemistry, dynamics and history of earth's atmosphere and near space environment; research on climate processes and variations; and studies to understand the natural global cycles of gases and particles in earth's atmosphere. Additional information about the division and its programs can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=ATM>.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in basic research and education that contribute to the nation's technical strength, security, and welfare. This 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.

Appointments will be made for one year and may be extended for an additional one or two

years by mutual agreement. Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in a relevant field, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the position. The ability to manage programs spanning a variety of disciplines is highly desirable. Also desirable are knowledge of the general scientific community and strong skills in written and oral communication. All appointees are expected to function effectively as part of a team, contributing to and coordinating with offices throughout the Foundation and with other Federal and state government agencies and private sector organizations.

Program Director positions recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

- **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 appointed to NSF's 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.
- **Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment.** 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. The individual remains an employee of the home institution, and NSF provides funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits.
- **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, life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year.

For additional information about NSF's rotational programs, please see "**ROTATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND EDUCATORS**" on the NSF website at [http://www.nsf.gov/about/career\\_opps](http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps).

Individuals interested in applying for a Program Director position should contact:

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