



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings  
Program Director Positions  
Employment Opportunities—Dear Colleague Letter

November 1, 2006

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings (DRL) announces a nationwide search for a number of Program Director positions at the National Science Foundation (NSF). This is a new Division that combines staff and programs previously under the Division of Research, Evaluation, and Communication (REC) and the Division of Elementary, Secondary, and Informal Education (ESIE). Appointments will usually be made for one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed projects in the basic research and education that contribute to the nation's technical strength, security, and welfare. To discharge this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines (science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and STEM education) but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest in and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Successful candidates will be expected to work with other staff in the division in managing some of the following programs: Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE), Advanced Learning Technologies (ALT), Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER), Discovery Research K-12 (DR-K12), Informal Science Education (ISE), Advanced Technological Education (ATE), and Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST). They will also be expected to work closely with staff in other directorates on cross-cutting programs of importance to the mission of the Agency.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent experience, and six or more years of successful experience of at least one of the following kinds:

\*research or research management experience in a field relevant to the position, such as STEM education research, biological science, social science, behavioral science, cognitive science, physical science, the learning sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics, statistics, or measurement.

\*informal science education experience entailing extensive knowledge of interactive educational exhibit development/management aimed at public audiences, large film/radio/TV production, web-based/virtual environments, or community youth/family programming.

\*formal education experiences (K-12) requiring extensive knowledge of relevant research on learning and teacher education, or knowledge of instructional materials development.

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. Appointments are usually made for up to one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.
- **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. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended 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, life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

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\\_ops](http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_ops).

Individuals interested in applying for a Program Director position should send a current CV and statement of interest to:

Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings  
E-mail: [drlrecruit@nsf.gov](mailto:drlrecruit@nsf.gov)

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