

## Case: Misrepresenting credentials

### Allegation:

PI's two NSF proposals included a resume falsely claiming that he had earned a B.S. in biology.



# The Process:

## Inquiry, Investigation, Adjudication:

You are the responsible University official notified of the allegation, what must you consider and what must you do?

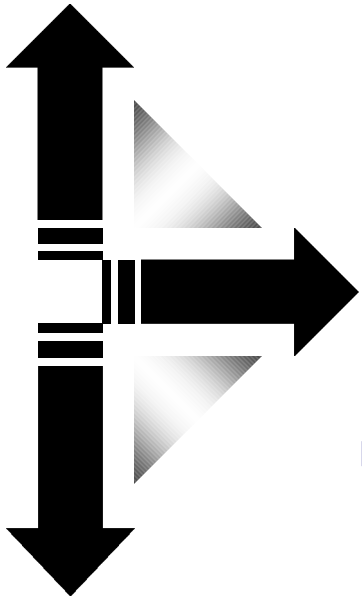
- Review university's policies
- Review existing evidence
- Inform subject, university counsel
- Confidentiality and Conflict of Interests
- FOIA and Privacy Act considerations
- Initiate Inquiry: Convene and brief inquiry committee
- Timely, thorough



## The Facts

- ❑ PI worked for a computer research company
- ❑ Company informed us of the misrepresentation
- ❑ After company learned of the subject's misrepresentation, it took steps to terminate the subject's employment, and he resigned from his position
- ❑ OIG conducted the inquiry and investigation (firm was too small)





## Facts OIG Inquiry and Investigation

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- ❑ Subject's 25 years of experience in working with computers were more important in assessing his qualifications than his alleged possession of a B.S. in an unrelated discipline.
- ❑ Misrepresentation was not necessarily material to NSF's decision but seriously violated professional standards for the preparation of proposals.
- ❑ Subject lost long-held job as a direct result of misrepresentation to NSF.





# What do we consider when assessing whether this is misconduct and what to recommend?

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- Substantive matter?
- Need to protect Federal interest?
- Documentable evidence?
- Need to correct record, prospective impact?
- What were actions in prior, similar cases?
  
- Send report with recommendation to adjudicator (NSF's Deputy Director)



# Adjudication:

## What finding and actions should NSF take?

- Letter of reprimand
- Finding of misconduct
- For 1 year, subject certifies to OIG that all information in his proposals is correct

