



NSF CAREER Program: Informational Proposal Development Workshop
April 7, 2016

Faculty Mentor Q&A Responses – Berger

1. How much did the applicants coordinate with their program officers?

Not much at all.

2. Did you submit the project for standard NSF proposals (or elsewhere) prior to submitting as a CAREER?

Yes - submitted a DMR proposal beforehand and used that feedback for submission #2.

3. On a similar note, if a project fit into a call for EAGER grants, would you submit to the EAGER grant or "save" it for the CAREER?

I'd save it - better odds.

4. How does having a standard grant funded affect your chances for the CAREER if you are submitting to the same program?

Not sure, but in my case I had 2 NSF grants prior to the CAREER.

5. Any suggestions on strategies with where you send your proposal if it fits into multiple programs, particularly if both program directors thought it would fit their program?

Multiple panels or cross-disciplinary/cross-directorate was a real negative for my 1st submission where I got several negative reviews from biology - find out what panels your letter writers and other peers at major conferences sit on and submit there in my case.

6. Could you describe your own experience and the process you went through to win the CAREER proposal? In particular, could you explain how you developed your educational component?

Needed to identify something that was not incremental or just using existing resources - create something new. Also, need clear metrics to define success and methods to measure those metrics and assess success and how you will change your approach based on feedback.