



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

Faculty Mentor Q&A Responses – Hwang

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

Not much and not very important.

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

Started academic career as a full professor and was never eligible for submitting a CAREER proposal if a similar program existed back then.

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?

Usually the program director decides if an unsuccessful CAREER proposal can be "saved" as an EAGER proposal for further development of the idea, which should increase its chance as a successful CAREER proposal later. I don't think anyone should submit an EAGER proposal without clear encouragement by a program director.

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

The review panel usually views current funding from NSF or other agencies positively, although the program director may like to spread limited funds more widely without saying it in public. The end results is usually the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

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?

By all means submit to both programs if both program directors thought it would fit their programs. It shouldn't be much work as I believe FastLane allows one to click on multiple programs. Diligent program directors of related programs routinely coordinate formally (joint review panels) and informally, whether a proposal is submitted to multiple programs or not.

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?

Sorry, no winning or losing experience.