



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

Faculty Mentor Q&A Responses – Brown

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

I didn't discuss my proposal with the PO before submitting, but I probably should have.

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

No, this was my first NSF proposal.

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 recommend "saving" the idea for your CAREER proposal. The CAREER is supposed to represent a fairly new direction for you and your lab. It may be difficult to spin that angle if you've already received funding to do something similar.

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

I didn't have any prior NSF grants, but the reviewers commented on my prior NIH success. I think any record of productivity – grants, papers, etc. helps. Reviewers are more likely to think you're capable if other reviewers have thought this in the past.

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?

I was told to stick to my discipline because reviewers may want to use the limited funds to support researchers in their own disciplines.

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?

For both the research and outreach components, think about what you enjoy and what you can uniquely contribute to a particular problem. Approach the

broader impacts like the intellectual merit component – describe the problem you plan to address, explain the tasks you intend to complete to address this problem, and discuss the methods you will use to quantify your results. Ideally, the broader impacts should tie into your research plan – the whole proposal should “tell a story.”