

# Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program (NSF 17-537)



## Next Deadlines:

- July 18, 2018 – BIO, CISE, EHR
- July 19, 2018 – ENG
- July 20, 2018 – GEO, MPS, SBE

## Future Years:

- Third Wed, Thursday, Friday of July

*Sonia Esperança, Ph. D.* –  
GEO representative to the CAREER  
Coordinating Committee (CCC)

CAREER website: [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)  
(solicitation, FAQs, link to recent awards, Division Contacts)

# Support for New Investigators

- NSF supports new investigators (not previously funded by NSF) in all of our programs
- More than 1/3 of research proposals submitted to NSF are from new investigators (2/3 of CAREER proposals)
- About 1/4 of research awards go to new investigators (1/2 of CAREER awards)
- The Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) - NSF-wide opportunity that offers the most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty with potential to serve as academic role models in research and education, and to lead advances in the mission of their department/organization

# CAREER Program

- Emphasizes the importance NSF places on early development of academic careers in which the excitement of research is enhanced by inspired teaching and dissemination of new knowledge
- Aims to provide stable support at a sufficient level and duration to enable awardees to develop careers not only as outstanding researchers but also as effective, committed educators
- Aims to encourage faculty and academic institutions to value and support the integration of research and education, in which the process of discovery stimulates learning and assures that research findings are quickly and effectively communicated in a broader context and to a large audience

# Investigator Eligibility Criteria

- Hold a doctoral degree by proposal deadline
- Be untenured and employed in a **tenure-track (or tenure-track-equivalent)** assistant professor position at an eligible institution as of October 1st following deadline
- Be in a position with **both** research and educational responsibilities at an eligible institution
- Have not previously received a CAREER award
- Have not had more than two CAREER proposals reviewed previously

# Tenure-Track Equivalency

For a position to be considered a tenure-track-equivalent position, it must meet all of the following requirements:

- the employee has a continuing appointment that is expected to last the five years of a CAREER grant;
- the appointment has substantial research and educational responsibilities; and
- the proposed project relates to the employee's career goals and job responsibilities as well as to the mission of the department or organization.
- Departmental Letter must affirm that the investigator's appointment is at an early-career level equivalent to pre-tenure status, and the Departmental Letter must clearly and convincingly demonstrate how the faculty member's appointment satisfies all the above requirements of tenure-track equivalency.

# Institutional Eligibility

- Academic institutions in the U.S. that award degrees in fields supported by NSF
- Non-profit, non-degree-granting organizations in the U.S. such as museums, observatories, or research labs (Note that eligibility requirements of the PI's position must be satisfied)
- NSF encourages proposals from all institutional types, including Minority Serving and Primarily Undergraduate Institutions

# CAREER or Regular proposal?

- CAREER proposals are single-PI projects that include integrated research and education activities that are innovative and ambitious
- CAREER proposals require a letter of support from the Department Chair
- The CAREER program's aims are lofty – CAREER awards are a lot of work
- Are you at the right stage in your career to undertake the commitments of a CAREER award?
- Have you discussed your ideas with mentors / peers / program officers?
- Have you demonstrated commitment to both research and education?

# CAREER varies across NSF

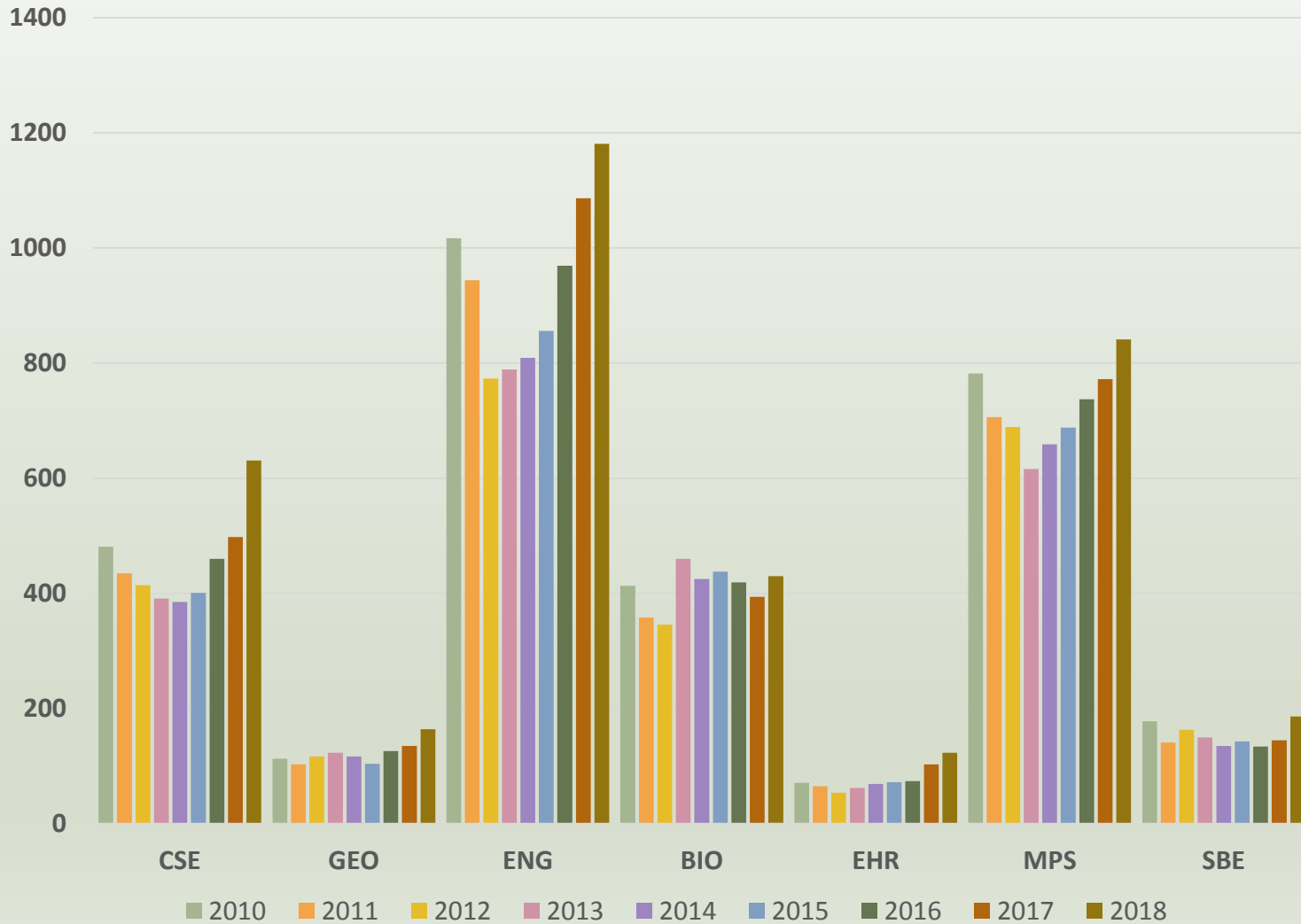
- CAREER proposals are submitted to, and reviewed by, one or more of the disciplinary research programs
- Typical award sizes vary according to Directorate/Division/Program
- Expectations for scope of research and education activities vary with disciplinary community norms
- Talk to Division Contact(s) for more information (<http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp>)
- For interdisciplinary proposals, contact all relevant Program Directors or Division Contacts



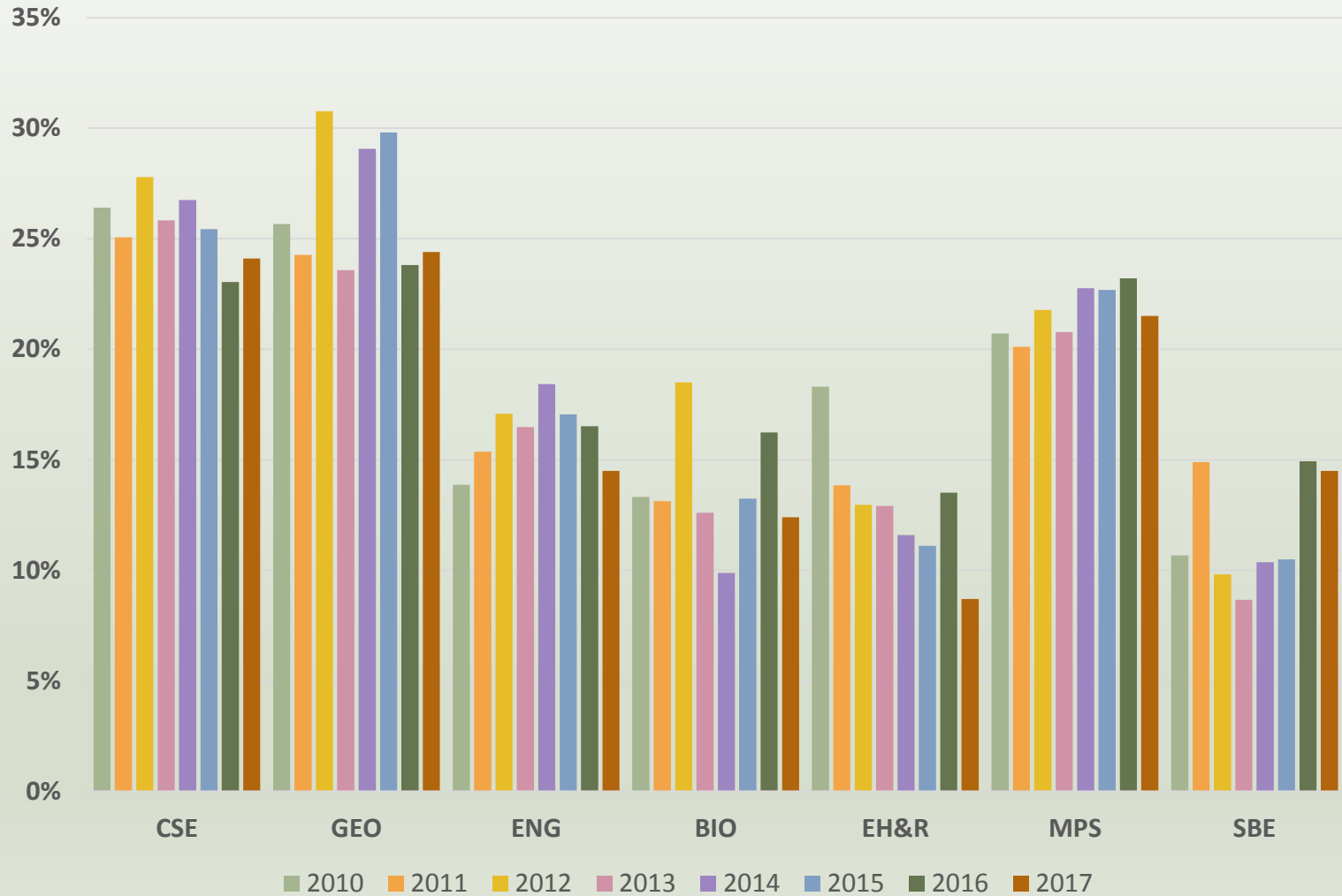
# Merit Review varies across NSF

- Ad hoc & Panel (review with other proposals under consideration by the disciplinary program):
  - most of GEO (AGS uses ad hoc only)
  - BIO and SBE
- Primarily dedicated CAREER Panels :
  - ENG, CISE, EHR
- MPS varies by Division:
  - AST : Panel only
  - CHE, DMR – Mix of ad hoc & panels
  - DMS – Mostly panel
  - PHY – Mostly ad hoc

# Number of CAREER Proposals



# CAREER Funding Rate



# CAREER Proposal Ingredients

- An integrated plan for research and education, ambitious but feasible
- Compelling argument that project will achieve effective integration of or synergy between research and education activities
- Departmental Letter demonstrating commitment to the career development of the investigator
- Letters of Collaboration (not of support or endorsement) when appropriate
- A budget that is consistent with the scope of the research and education activities

# Integration of Research and Education

- Think creatively about the reciprocal relationship between research and education activities and how they may inform each other in your career development
- Plans should reflect your own disciplinary and educational interests and goals, as well as the needs and context of your organization
- There are different expectations within different disciplinary fields – a wide range of research and education activities may be appropriate for the CAREER program
- Some investigators may wish to pursue an additional activity such as entrepreneurship, industry partnerships, or policy that enhances their research and education plans
- See the CAREER program solicitation for thought-provoking examples
- Communicate with the CAREER contact(s) in the Division(s) closest to your area of research to discuss expectations

# Departmental Letter (2 pages)

- **Commitment to the PI's proposed CAREER research and education activities**
- **Description of how the PI's career goals and responsibilities mesh with that of the organization and department**
- **Description of how the department will contribute to the professional development of the PI with mentoring and whatever is needed to further the PI's efforts to integrate research and education**
- **Statement indicating the PI's eligibility for the CAREER program**

# Letter(s) of Collaboration

- **Project Description or Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources** must document the nature of all project collaborations, such as:
  - Intellectual contributions to the project
  - Permission to access a site, use instrumentation or facility
  - Offer to furnish samples / materials for research
  - Logistical support / evaluation services
  - Mentoring of U.S. students at a foreign site, if applicable
- Letter should consist of a single-sentence statement of collaboration:
  - “If the proposal submitted by Dr. [name of the PI] entitled [proposal title] is selected for funding by the NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description.”
  - **Must NOT** recommend or endorse PI or project

# CAREER Personnel and Budgets

- Co-PIs on cover sheet are not allowed
- Request for support of other senior personnel, consultants, or sub-awards is allowed, commensurate with a limited role in the project
- International activities are encouraged and may be supported by the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE)
- Programs may support buy-out of academic year time for teaching-intensive institutions (check with your Program Officer)
- Programs may prefer to make awards with budget close to the anticipated *minimum* size (check with your Program Officer)



# **PECASE**

## **(Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering)**

- **PECASE Eligibility: US Citizen or Permanent Resident**
- **14 federal agencies nominate individuals for the PECASE recognition (more than 100 nominees in total annually)**
- **20 nominees selected from recent CAREER awardees are put forward by NSF each year**
- **Number of nominees per Directorate is based on number of CAREER awards made in the Directorate**

# PECASE (Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering)



*Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson – May 2016*



# QUESTIONS ?

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