**Tips for the NSF CAREER Education Plan**

*Remember…“The educational component (no matter how brilliant) cannot make up for a deficient research plan.”*

* Some general guidance- NSF will give careful consideration to the following:

• Integration of research & education

• Integrating diversity and broadening participation into programs, projects & activities

* Reviewers & Program Officials want to see an education component that is new:

• not just activities that you’ve already established

• something more than just course development

• something that is as unique or as innovative as your regular research that complements your career trajectory and research focus

* Consider activities you already involved in.

• Are the education activities aligned with the career path you describe in the full proposal?

* Do your background research on successful CAREER programs/ talk to your department colleagues

• Leverage NSF investments and major strengths/strategic goals at your institution & local connections such as:

* Expertise & infrastructure of existing centers / programs
* Existing partnerships, relationships & frameworks
* Collaborators with expertise in education & outreach. EX:
* Programs with teachers, K-12 students
* Programs with pre-service teachers
* Undergraduate research
* Science camps for middle schoolers
* Connections with Community Colleges
* Community entities, industry
* “Underserved” “underrepresented populations” –not just students at MSU!
* Workforce partners
* Mentoring colleagues at MSI, HBCU, PUI institutions.

**Content to address in your Ed. Plan:**

1. Challenge/need/motivation for your education activities (demonstrate need for your planned activities with data and literature)
2. Education goals with measurable objectives
3. Previous success and similar (education) outcomes
4. Plan: Describe your planned education activities and include the following:
5. Promoting teaching, training and learning – strongly encourages inclusion of undergrad students (ex: mentoring, course development, supplementary activities)
6. Broadening participation of underrepresented groups (ex: outreach, strategic recruitment, transdisciplinary, etc.)

c. Enhancing the infrastructure for education (ex: training, cross-disc. collaboration, etc.)

1. Plan for evaluating education activities
2. Disseminating your education results
3. Plan for sustaining education activities
4. Be sure to budget adequately for education-related activities!

You may wish to incorporate your education plan in its own section OR throughout your proposal as you describe the need, objectives, methods/approach, timeline, dissemination, evaluation, etc.

**To do:**

* Do something you are genuinely excited about – your degree of motivation shows through your writing.
* Adequately demonstrate your expertise and capacity/ resources for carrying out the activities
* Discuss your proposal & strategy with and involve other departmental, college, and university units/centers, external partners, etc., and - Partner with groups/centers on campus to take advantage of existing infrastructure.
* Enhance standard activities (e.g. mentoring your grad students) Inducing Undergraduates in research is EXPECTED.
* Get letters of collaboration that demonstrate commitment from education partners
* Include appropriate funding to support education activities in the budget. Can you leverage other funding?
* Include a detailed plan for evaluating the effectiveness of education activities
* Think about long-term sustainability of the proposed education activities. (mention potential for REU for further support if funded.)
* Transferability – can others utilize your model?
* Include a detailed timeline