CAREER Proposal Tips from NSF
from Henry Warchall’s presentation on April 22, 2015
CAREER Proposal Ingredients

• A compelling research plan
• An innovative but feasible education plan
• A plan for effective integration of research and educational activities
• Departmental Letter
• Statements of collaboration if relevant
• Appropriate proposal budget
CAREER Research Plan

Place the work into context
   – Why is the proposed research important?
   – What has been done / what is known to date?
   – In what way(s) is the proposed work novel?

Provide some details for an expert reviewer
   – How do you plan to approach the problem(s) under study?
   – What will you do if the approach does not succeed?
   – Why does the project require five years of effort?
CAREER Education Plan

• Activities should go beyond what is expected from any assistant professor in your field

• Workload should not be unreasonable

• Should be informed by what has been successful in the past -- intellectual merit of the education component

• Should have a plan for assessing the success of the education program

• Check with your Program Officer or search the abstracts on the web
Integration of Research and Education

How will your research impact your education goals and how will your education activities feed back into your research? Some possibilities:

• Involving others (postdocs, grad. students, undergraduates, K-12, high school teachers, public) in your research using new tools, lab methods, field study, cyber networks, etc...

• Partnering with those in other communities, especially those historically underrepresented in science and engineering

• Bringing the excitement of your research topics to help in the education of others

• Searching for new methods to deliver your research results to a broader audience than those in the research community

• Using the broader community to gather data for your scientific pursuits (“citizen science”)