

**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”)