



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0085-O

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This investigation was initiated pursuant to an allegation that an NSF grantee community college misled NSF on an award proposal, by including an associate professor as a Principal Investigator (PI) on the proposal when the college did not intend to allow him to perform the duties attributed to him in the proposal. The allegation was that the associate professor was included only because his qualifications increased the chances of an award. Our investigation determined that the limited duties performed by the PI were, in fact, those identified in the proposal to NSF, that the co-PI's duties as described in the proposal were always intended to be much broader than those of the PI, and that the qualifications of the associate professor were not material to NSF's funding decision.

It was further alleged that the grantee subsequently retaliated against the associate professor for a disclosure to a university official, by placing him on administrative leave and issuing a written reprimand. We determined that the disclosure to the university official did not meet the criteria under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, and that the adverse actions were in response to the associate professor's withdrawal from the award rather than a reaction to the disclosure.

Accordingly, this investigation is closed.