



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0044-O

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We investigated an allegation by a university employee that the university revoked a graduate teaching assistantship (GTA) offer and denied her any future GTA positions in reprisal for reporting theft of materials purchased with NSF award funds. We investigated the matter in accordance with 41 U.S.C. § 4712's whistleblower protection provisions. Our investigation found that the employee did make protected disclosures regarding NSF funds and confirmed that someone at the university who was aware of her disclosures subsequently revoked the employee's GTA offer and advised her she would not be receiving any future GTA positions. The university provided evidence that the decision not to offer the employee any future GTA positions was due to a history of poor performance and safety violations and that the GTA offer it revoked had been made in the mistaken belief there were available positions the employee could fill. We submitted a report of our findings to NSF management, the university, and the employee. NSF reviewed the report and concluded that the university did not subject the employee to a prohibited reprisal.

This case is closed with no further action taken.