



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I12010001

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Through proactive review we identified two large, concurrent awards to the same PI at a community college (College), awarded through a research foundation (Foundation). We requested records from the College and Foundation, which revealed possible misuse of NSF funds. Consequently, we opened an investigation.

We subpoenaed additional records and determined that the PI, college, and Foundation failed to ensure that NSF-funded students met eligibility requirements. Many of the students funded were neither STEM majors, US citizens/legal permanent residents, or academically eligible for the awards. We also determined that funds expended as petty cash and as payment to faculty did not comport with the requisite Foundation, College, and/or OMB policies.

We also determined that the PI had received a third, ongoing award, which we recommended NSF suspend. NSF implemented an expenditure hold in lieu of suspension.

The Foundation and College returned over \$300,000 in funds to NSF. The College addressed the issues identified in our investigation by implementing new policies and procedures.

At the college's request, NSF reassessed the college's stewardship of NSF funds and lifted the expenditure hold on the award. NSF agreed with the proviso that NSF will monitor the expenditure of participant support, faculty payments, and travel funds under award 3. We also referred the case to OIG Audit for further review.

This case is closed with no further action taken.