



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-15050017

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We opened this case based on an allegation that a principal investigator<sup>1</sup> improperly used NSF award<sup>2</sup> funds distributed to the PI's university.<sup>3</sup>

We requested and reviewed the general ledgers and financial documents for this award and identified a number of questionable and unallowable expenditures, most notably the travel expenses of the PI. After reviewing these expenses with the university, we requested the university conduct an audit of the PI's travel expenses for seven other recent NSF awards and furnish us a report of its findings.

Ultimately, the university agreed to reimburse NSF the unallowable expenses<sup>4</sup> from the initial award and an additional amount<sup>5</sup> from the other awards the university had audited. In addition, the PI was issued a written reprimand, denied any salary increase or promotion until 2019, and must complete training on the proper stewardship of federal awards. Finally, the university implemented a number of enhancements to its stewardship of federal awards, including a new mandatory training program for all faculty that plan to apply for or currently have a federal award.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

- 1 [REDACTED]
- 2 [REDACTED]
- 3 [REDACTED]
- 4 [REDACTED]
- 5 [REDACTED]