



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0073-O

Page 1 of 1

A university notified us that a PI might be misusing and misappropriating NSF funds. The university conducted an internal investigation and offered to repay NSF over \$1.3 million across four awards. We substantiated the allegations through analysis of the university's investigation and internal audit and determined the PI improperly paid individuals with participant support funds, generally mismanaged funds, did not complete adequate reports, and inappropriately paid individuals for work outside of summer dates and individuals who were not citizens of the United States, in violation of the program's requirements.

The university repaid NSF the full amount of the awards, totaling over \$1.3 million. The university also took disciplinary action against the PI, including a letter of reprimand, a one-year suspension without pay, reimbursement to the university of one-third of the identified misappropriated funds, a loss of endowment, reduction in compensation, ineligibility to serve as a PI on any new proposals for three years, a requirement for appointment of a Co-PI with fiduciary responsibilities for all existing grants, and completion of research integrity training approved by the university. Additionally, based on potential systemic issues identified, we referred the matter to our Office of Audits for further review of awards to this university.

This case is **closed**.