



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-19-0054-O

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We investigated an allegation that a former NSF Program Director (PD), serving as a Visiting Scientist, Engineer and Educator (VSEE) and then as an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) appointee, did not fully disclose his affiliations with foreign universities in documents submitted to NSF. Our investigation confirmed these allegations and found that the PD failed to disclose these affiliations while applying for several NSF grants, including the IPA award. However, we did not find evidence indicating the PD was employed at the foreign universities or that he received any form of payment from a foreign entity while he served as an NSF VSEE or IPA. Similarly, we did not identify any evidence indicating the PD continued his involvement with any foreign research awards once he started his VSEE position at NSF.

We did, however, find evidence that the PD held outside positions that were not reported to NSF on annual OGE-450 forms, as required. Additionally, our investigation found that while working as a PD, he recommended actions on an award where he held an institutional conflict of interest; recommended NSF funding be awarded to an individual offering to endorse him for membership in a professional society; and met with United States Congressional officials on behalf of the same professional society.

Based on our recommendation, NSF terminated the IPA award, resulting in over \$100,000 in funds put to better use. The PD was also suspended government-wide pending the conclusion of our investigation. We referred the matter to the Department of Justice, which ultimately declined to criminally prosecute the case.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.