



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0012-O

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A university notified us that it had identified questionable expenses related to an NSF award and initiated an internal investigation. We subpoenaed the university for its investigative documents, which identified several issues related to a PI, including the PI's use of university resources for a private company and comingling federal funding and private business activities. The university offered to repay identified unallowable expenditures associated with four NSF awards and ultimately returned over \$660,000 related to those awards. The university also returned over \$40,000 to another university for unallowable expenditures associated with a subaward from another federal agency. The PI resigned from the university. We referred the case to the U.S. Department of Justice for potential criminal and civil prosecutions, which were declined. We recommended NSF debar the PI and company for three years, and NSF agreed with our recommendation.

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