



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0095-0

Page 1 of 1

We investigated an allegation that there were irregularities with member votes on an NSF Industry-University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC) continuing award to a university. We determined the award's Principal Investigator (PI) fraudulently voted on behalf of the IUCRC members. We also determined that the PI submitted falsified certifications to NSF about the number of industry members in order to obtain the next tranche of incremental funds. When interviewed, the PI lied to us about voting on behalf of an industry member.

Ultimately, the PI pleaded guilty to providing two materially false statements by submitting a false certification to NSF and lying to a special agent during our interview. The PI was sentenced to 10 months of home confinement and ordered to pay \$40,000 in restitution. We recommended and NSF agreed to debar the PI for 3 years.

To resolve the civil False Claims Act allegations, the university agreed to return \$90,000 to NSF. The university also put more stringent oversight measures in place for its remaining IUCRC awards.

This case has been closed and no further action will be taken.