

**Strategies for
Educational Research Proposals
to the
National Science Foundation**

Bureau of Educational Research

March 11, 2004

Participants

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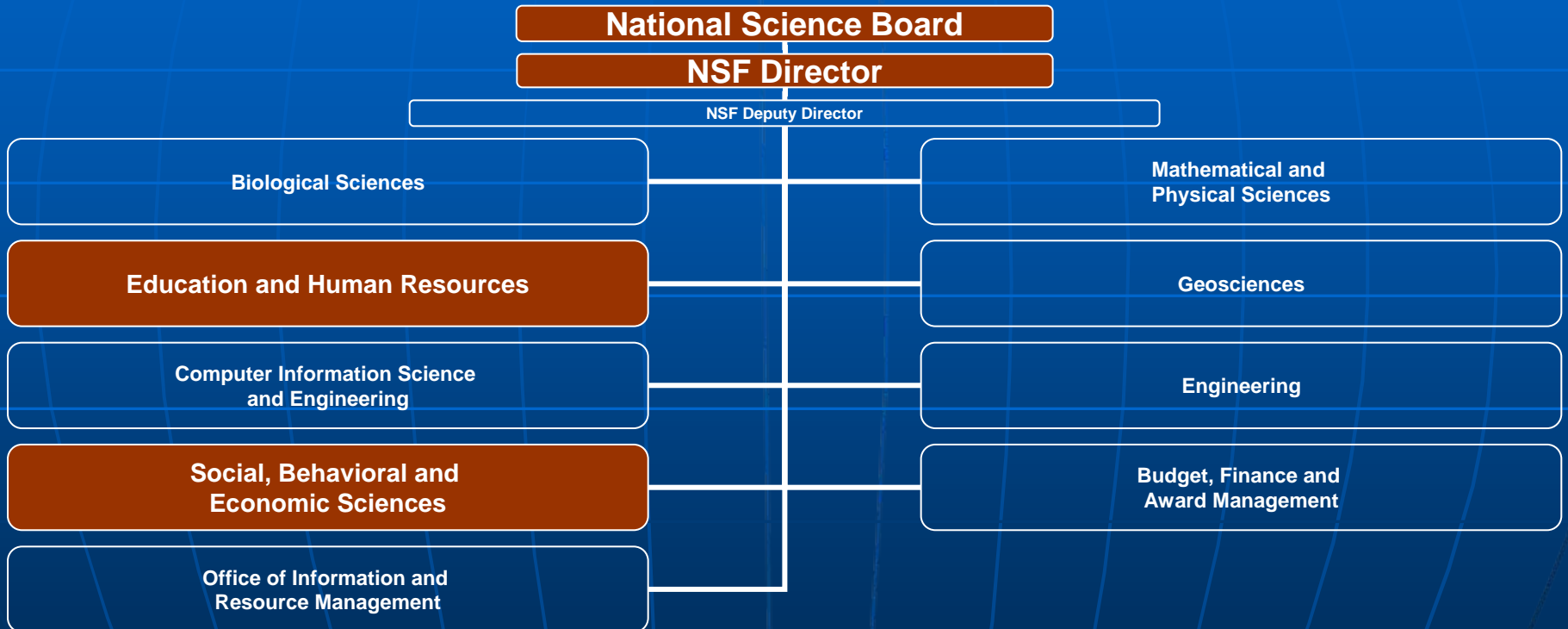
Beth Grosshandler, Lizanne DeStefano

Part One

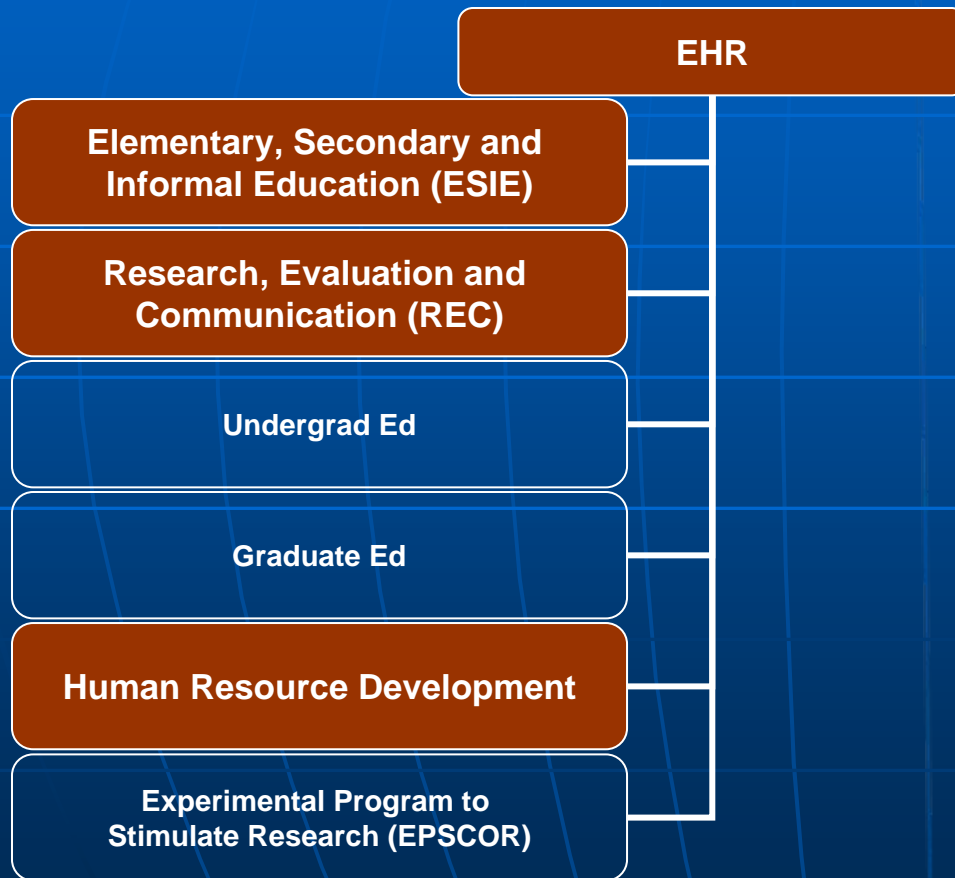
Introduction and Commentary on NSF Structure and Funding Mechanisms

Beth Grosshandler, Bureau

NSF Directorates



Education & Human Resources



Popular ESIE Programs:

- CLT – Centers for Teaching & Learning
- ITEST – Information Technology Experiences for Students & Teachers

Popular REC Programs:

- ROLE – Research on Learning & Education
- EREC – Evaluation Research & Evaluation Capacity-Building

Popular HRD Programs:

- GSE – Research on Gender
- RDE – Research on Disabilities Ed

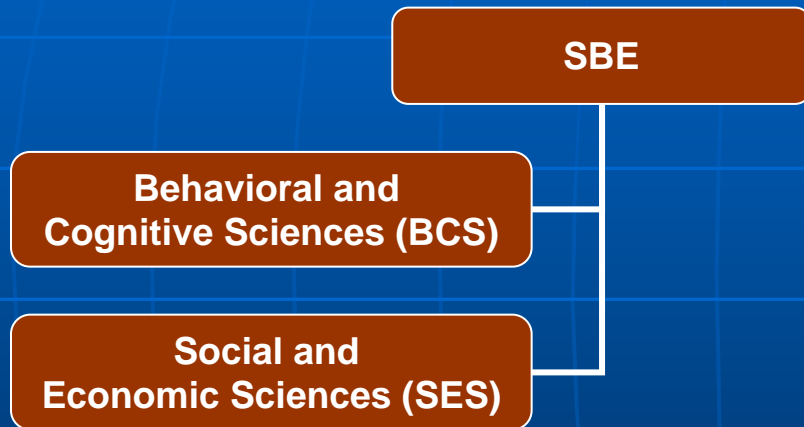
Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences

Popular BCS Programs:

- DLS - Developmental & Learning Sciences
- Social Psychology
- Perception, Action & Cognition

Popular SES Programs:

- MMS - Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
- SDEST - Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science and Technology



Cross-Directorate Programs

Formal collaborations among two or more Directorates:

- IERI – Interagency Educational Research Initiative
- ITWF – Information Technology Workforce
- SLC – Science of Learning Centers

Possible joint funding of individual research projects by Multiple Directorates

- Example: EHR (Education and Human Resources) with SBE (Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences)



Things to Consider

- Professional Objectives
- Content Area
- Project Type
- Size and Length
- Affiliations and Partners
- Communication with NSF

Professional Objectives

- Career development
- Research program focus
- Program building
- Outreach/service
- Materials development



Handout: Project Areas

Multiple programs across directorates:

- STEM Ed
- STEM Workforce
- Technology
- Learning Issues
- Social Issues
- Methodology

“STEM” = Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics 😊

Handout: Program Types

- Research
- Professional Development for K-12 staff
- Demonstration Projects
- Materials Development
- Researcher Career: Predoctoral training, Early career, Mid-career fellowships
- Events/workshops

Handout: Project Size and Length

- Duration
- Dollar amounts are shown per year of project

Approximate size distinctions:

- Small: Single investigator w/ staff, short (1-2 yrs)
- Medium: Multiple collaborators, longer (2-5 yrs)
- Large: Multi-unit collaboration, long (5 yrs +)



Updates on popular NSF Programs

- **ROLE** (Research on Learning & Education)
 - ROLE program announcement will separate from evaluation program (EREC)
 - Annual competitions reduced from 2 to 1?
- **IERI** (Interagency Educational Research Initiative)
 - Both objectives and funds are split among NSF, NIH and IES this year
- **TPC** (Teacher Professional Continuum)
 - Revised, restructured program announcement to appear soon



Special Funding Mechanisms

■ CAREER

- Faculty early career grants
- 5 years
- submitted to directorate/division of interest

■ SGER – (Small Grants for Exploratory Research)

- for piloting very innovative ideas or collecting data in time-limited situations
- (NEW: *increase* maximum from \$100K to \$200K – lasts 1 to 2 years)

Communication with NSF Program Officers

- Proposal development
 - Exploring project – program fit
 - Early in writing process
 - Late in writing process
- As a funded investigator
- As a reviewer/committee member



For More Information....

Today's handout with clickable links to NSF program web pages:

www.ed.uiuc.edu/ber/

NSF Guide to Proposal Writing (2004 Ed.):

www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04016/