# Applying for NSF CAREER Grants

UW ADVANCE
Spring Quarter Pre-Tenure Faculty Workshop

May 3, 2019



# **Speakers**

#### **CAREER Awardees and Panelists**

- Kate Starbird, Assistant Professor, Human Centered Design & Engineering
- Alshakim Nelson, Assistant Professor, Chemistry
- Emily Carrington, Professor, Biology

#### **Broadening Participation Contacts**

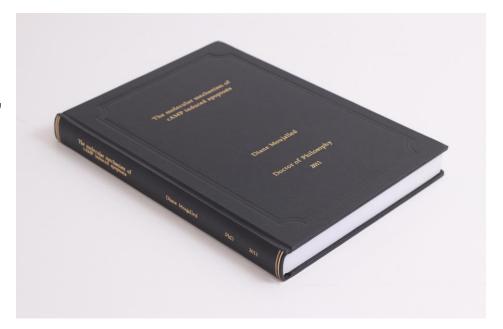
- Todd Sperry, Assistant Director, EIP/McNair Scholars Program
- Jacqueline Hernandez, LSAMP Counseling Services Coordinator
- Scott Pinkham, Assistant Director, MSEP Lead

### **Kate Starbird**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

# My First CAREER Proposal

- Dissertation Part II: Online Volunteerism during Crisis Events
- Proposing the "future work" of my dissertation as my CAREER
- Perfectly written, cited, edited
- Submitted in July 2014 (after Year #2)



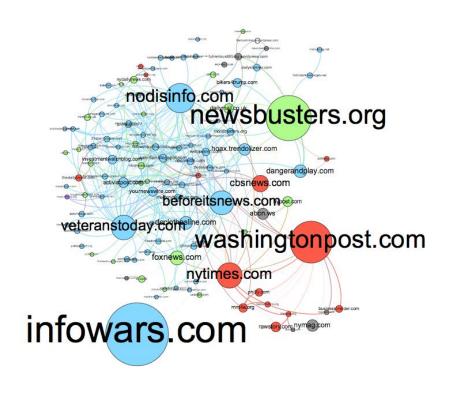
### REJECTED!

- Clocking ticking, no CAREER proposals
- Half-written proposals, never submitted (thank goodness)
- Building collaborations, working with amazing students
- Finding traction in unexpected places
- Guided by funded proposals (a RAPID, an NSF Small)
- Began to focus on online rumors and misinformation during crisis events



# May You Research in Interesting Times

- Stumbling down a rabbit hole (following our research into disinformation)
- Taking an intellectual risk
- Publishing a blog
- Talking to a Program Officer
- Writing/submitting an imperfect but impassioned and interesting proposal
- Submitted July 2017 (after my 5<sup>th</sup> year as faculty member)



# **Alshakim Nelson**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CHEMISTRY

# **General Thoughts**

- Develop a research idea or theme that will shape your career for the next 5 years and beyond
- Preliminary results are important!
- Ask successful colleagues for a copy of their proposal
  - Helps with formatting/organization
- The Grant Application Writer's Workbook was helpful for me



# Connect with the program officer(s)

- Call or visit DC
  - Does this fit into the particular program?
  - Any general advice?
- Write a one page proposal summary



#### **Broader Impacts !!!**

- Broader impact section matters!
  - Should account for 30-40 % of your proposal
- Should have at least one innovative component that connects to your research
- Identify outreach targets that interest you
- Plug into existing UW infrastructure
  - UWHS, Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, Upward Bound
- Think about data / figures for Broader Impacts section
  - Take pictures
  - Use surveys

# **Emily Carrington**

PROFESSOR, BIOLOGY

# Identifying Relevant NSF Programs: Web Search, Contact a Program Director

- Where is the "intellectual center of gravity" of my project?
  - Environmental Engineering and Sustainability?
  - Transport Phenomena?
  - Biosensing?
- Examine the websites of the relevant division(s)
  - Try to identify several programs and/or clusters
  - Email one or more of the listed Program Directors with questions about relevance of your project
  - Send in a 1-2 page synopsis outlining your question, specific aims and approach
  - More questions? Set up a time to talk over the phone



#### What Makes a Proposal Competitive?

- Potential for high impact
- New, original ideas
- Focused, feasible project plan
- Articulated knowledge of subject area, published relevant work
- Experience in essential methods or approaches, and/or collaborator expertise
- Sound scientific rationale
- Realistic amount of work; sufficient detail; critical approach (knows the pitfalls, contingency plans)

# Program Director Considerations in Recommending Funding

- Likely high impact of the work
- Place in Program's scientific portfolio of awards
- Other grant support for the PI
- Impact on institution or state (e.g., EPSCoR)
- Broadening participation of PIs
- Educational, and other Broader Impacts

#### Panel Review Feedback

#### The process:

- Individuals write proposal reviews, provide rating
- Panel discusses written reviews, resolving any differences in ratings
- Panel ranks the proposal relative to others in the panel
- Panel writes Panel Summary, which summarizes strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and the rationale for the panel ranking

#### How to respond if not funded:

- DO focus on the Panel Summary
- DON'T fret over minor comments in review that don't make their way to the Panel Summary
- DO set up a time to discuss your reviews with your Program Director and how to address critiques.
- Revise and resubmit

# **Todd Sperry**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, EIP/MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

# **Jacqueline Hernandez**

LSAMP COUNSELING SERVICES COORDINATOR

# **Scott Pinkham**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MSEP LEAD

#### **CAREER Webinar- EHR**

- May 7
- 2:00- 3:30 PM
- No registration required

Overview of issues to consider for Pls planning to submit a CAREER proposal to the Directorate for Education and Human Resources

For more information, please visit:

https://tinyurl.com/yxegupn5

# **CAREER Webinar- Engineering**

#### May 9

NSF will host a webinar on the CAREER program. Although the slots have been filled to attend the webinar, a recording will be made available shortly afterward. Principal Investigators may also contact the appropriate program officers to discuss their topics. CAREER proposals for Engineering are due July 18, 2019

For more information, please visit:

https://tinyurl.com/gwd56xb



# **Proposal Summary Speed Dating**

- June 21, 2019 10:00am to 11:30am, Loew 355
- Get high level feedback on a draft of your CAREER proposal abstract. Reviewers are past CAREER awardees and other faculty. The format will be a speed-dating style with each attendee spending 10-15 minutes with each reviewer.

# Questions?