

NSF EAGER GERMINATION PROJECT
Instructions for letters of recommendation/support

Applicant's Name:

School:

Department:

To the recommending Chair, Dean, Academic Vice President or Provost:

The above named _____ is applying for participation in an NSF funded project designed to bring together a diverse interdisciplinary group of early career researchers in a structured, facilitated process to develop innovative and collaborative approaches to research on the topic of energy sustainability. The process will involve three workshops of two to three days in length, one in January 2019, and two more later that year. Each will be separated by a “gestation” period during which the participant will work with colleagues to develop ideas suitable for a funding proposal. Our grant will cover travel and lodging costs for the three workshops, but these events will involve some time away from the home campus. The end goal of the process is for participants to develop at least one fundable research proposal by the end of the third workshop.

We seek your support in assisting us in evaluating this candidate for inclusion in the project by assessing the applicant's:

1. Research promise (since we are targeting early career scholars, research promise is more important than research productivity to date);
2. Ability to collaborate in a diverse team; and
3. Ability to collaborate across academic disciplines.

Since we are also hoping participation in this project can support the increase in research capacity and collaboration at the participants' institutions, please also describe your institution's readiness to support the applicant's participation in three workshops in 2019 and his or her on-going proposal development and collaborative research activity as a result of the project.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact William Barley at: **barley@illinois.edu**.

Thank you for your assistance.