

# 2003 Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing - October 17, 2003

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## Writing Successful Proposals for NSF

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# Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Goals

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- To enable the U.S. to uphold a position of world leadership in computing, communications, and information science and engineering
- To promote understanding of the principles and uses of advanced computing, communications and information systems in service to society
- To contribute to universal, transparent and affordable participation in an information-based society.

# Proposal Preparation DO's

## *NSF uses Peer Review*

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- Do identify the relevant program and talk to the appropriate program director;
- Do read the program announcement carefully and respond;
- Do understand the rules and evaluation criteria of NSF;
- Do present your ideas clearly and succinctly using correct English;
- Do provide adequate explanation - reviewers are technical peers;
- Do ask experienced investigator to critique your proposal;
- Do read copies of successful proposals;
- Do volunteer to be a reviewer.

# NSF's Merit Review Criteria

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## **What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project?

*... more...*

## **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups?

*... more...*

## **Additional program-specific review criteria**

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***NSF will return without review proposals that do not separately address both merit review criteria within the Project Summary.***



# Proposal Preparation DON'Ts

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- Don't give up if your proposal is declined; examine the reviews and try once more;
- Don't submit an identical proposal to several programs;
- Don't miss proposal deadlines; NSF does not accept late submissions;
- Don't request unrealistic items in the budget;
- Don't exceed program budgetary guidelines.

# A good proposal

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- **Responds to the program announcement;**
- **Presents in a concise, scientific writing style:**
  - What you are going to do
  - How you will do it
  - Why it is important
  - What is your unique contribution
  - What others are doing in this area
  - An appropriate and justified budget
- **Includes letters indicating support or cooperation, if proposing other participants;**
- **Shows how current proposal builds on past support, if relevant;**
- **Responds to the reviewers' comments, if this is a re-submission.**