



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Title: Division of Ocean Sciences
Program Director for Biological Oceanography
Employment Opportunity--Dear Colleague Letter

Date: December 4, 2003

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE) announces a nationwide search for a program director for the Biological Oceanography Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The **Biological Oceanography Program** supports research in marine ecology – relationships among marine organisms and their interactions with the geochemical and physical environment. Funded projects focus on understanding variability within marine ecosystems, including ocean margins, continental shelves, central gyres, basins, as well as the Great Lakes. Major studies aim to determine the roles of organisms in global-scales processes. Areas of research include ecosystems and biogeochemical processes, community and population ecology, behavioral, reproductive and life-history ecology, physiological and chemical ecology, molecular, cellular and biochemical studies, evolutionary ecology, and sometimes-systematic biology paleoecology. **This position may be filled at the Assistant Program Director, Associate Program Director or Program Director level.**

NSF program directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in basic research and education that contribute to the nation's technical strength, security, and welfare. To discharge this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines, but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

For the **Program Director** level, applicants must possess a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in biological oceanography, marine ecology, or related disciplinary fields. In addition, six or more years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the program are required. For the **Associate Program Director** level, applicants must possess a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in the above disciplines plus four or more years of successful research, research administration, education and/or managerial experience pertinent to the program are required. For the **Assistant Program Director** level, applicants must possess Ph.D. or equivalent experience in the above disciplines, or a Masters degree in one of the above disciplines plus two or more years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the program are required.

Also desirable is knowledge of the general scientific community, skill in written communication and preparation of technical reports, an ability to communicate orally, and several years of successful independent research of the kind normally expected of the academic rank of assistant professor or higher. All appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs, as well as in a team mode, contributing to and coordinating with organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State government agencies and private-sector organizations. Periodic assignments to leadership of interdivisional, inter-directorate and interagency programs may be made. We are particularly interested in attracting women, underrepresented minority and disabled candidates to this position.

The position recruited under this announcement may be filled under the:

- **Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment.** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers and Educators" on the NSF website at <http://www.nsf.gov/jobs>.

Applications and questions concerning this position should be directed to:

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HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.**