



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A01120048

Page 1 of 1

During a panel review in December 2001, a reviewer noted that two REU proposals (P1¹ and P2²) from two PIs (PI1 and PI2, respectively) at different institutions were essentially the same. We reviewed the proposals and agreed with the reviewers' assessment. We contacted the subjects to seek their explanations about the apparently duplicate proposals.

The subjects stated they have a history of working together and began working together on this REU project in 1999. They each contributed to it and considered it a joint effort. In addition to consulting her grants office, PI1 asked an NSF Program Manager (PM)³ for suggestions about how to submit their proposal. Specifically, she asked the PM if two institutions were collaborating on a REU project, to the extent that more than 50% of their efforts overlapped, should the PIs submit separate proposals from both universities or submit a joint proposal. The PM responded that unless there was a compelling reason why the two universities must work together, they would be better off with two separate proposals.

Thus, the PIs followed the NSF PM's suggestion to submit separate proposals. As PI1 noted, REU proposals are infrastructure awards that enhance an institution's ability to engage undergraduates in research, so that even if P1 and P2 had been funded (neither was), it should not have been considered duplicative funding. Because of the circumstances, including the nature of the proposals and the PIs following the PM's advice, we conclude there is insufficient substance to the allegation to pursue. Accordingly, this case is closed, and we will take no further action on it.

¹ (footnote redacted).

² (footnote redacted).

³ (footnote redacted).

	Agent	Attorney	Supervisor	AIGI
Sign / date				