



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-07080030

Page 1 of 2

This case was opened based on information provided by a university internal audit department that Subject 1<sup>1</sup> submitted travel reimbursements to be paid by the university<sup>2</sup> from an NSF grant,<sup>3</sup> which duplicated reimbursements he submitted to the school district<sup>4</sup> where he was an employed as the superintendent. Our investigation determined that Subject 1 submitted multiple duplicate travel reimbursements to the school district, the university, and multiple other institutions that invited Subject 1 to be a guest speaker and education consultant.

Subject 1 also provided false student test scores to the university as research results to continue to receive salary payment from the university's NSF grant. He falsified his research design and protocols, fabricated results for a non-existent "control group" of students, and falsified the data for the students who were taught with his methodology to make it appear to be more successful. The falsified results significantly undermined the results of the university's NSF-funded project.

Subject 1 was also the Principal Investigator (PI) on an NSF grant<sup>5</sup> and a Department of Education (DoEd) grant to his school district. Subject 1 caused the school district to make subawards from the NSF and DoEd grants to a local university<sup>6</sup> where Subject 2<sup>7</sup> was a professor. Subject 2 then caused Subject 1 to be paid \$110,000 from the subawards, without Subject 1 performing any work.

Subject 1 also caused the school district to retain an evaluation company<sup>8</sup> owned by Subject 3,<sup>9</sup> a professor at the same local university. Subject 1 approved payments to the evaluation company from the DoEd grant totaling \$395,000, and, in return, Subject 3 paid Subject 1 \$90,000 without Subject 1 performing any work. Subject 3 also paid herself and Subject 2 \$152,500 each from the federal grant funds; however, neither of them disclosed information about the work they did for the company, or the payments they received from it, to their university, as required.

Subjects 1, 2, and 3 were indicted on sixteen felony counts in federal court. Subject 1 pled guilty to one count of mail fraud and was ordered to serve 10 months in prison and pay restitution of

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 NSF Grant No. [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 NSF Grant No. [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number:

Page 2 of 2

\$325,000. Subjects 2 and 3 pled guilty to one count each of submitting false statements and were sentenced to 5 years' probation. DoEd has proposed debarment of the three subjects.

As a result of this investigation, the local university reviewed its expenditures under the NSF subaward and other NSF awards, and returned \$234,480 to NSF.

This case is closed.