

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 1, 1999

To: File #I99070027

From: [REDACTED] Audit Advisor/Investigative Attorney

Via: [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge, Investigations Section

Re: Case Closeout - [REDACTED]

Background

In June, 1999, we received an allegation from [REDACTED] that the Science and Technology Center at the [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] made inappropriate purchases and she was retaliated against for bringing this to the attention of an NSF program officer.

Investigation

We had several conversations with [REDACTED] but she did not provide us with examples of specific instances of inappropriate purchases other than her allegation that the Director of [REDACTED] forced her to use cost-sharing funds from her grant to purchase items for a faculty member who was not associated with the grant. We also heard from the program office that when [REDACTED] left the [REDACTED] she took equipment that was identified as belonging to the [REDACTED] a separation agreement that she signed.

[REDACTED] also provided our office a copy of a grievance against the [REDACTED] that she did not file. This grievance contained allegations of misconduct in science against the [REDACTED] director. [REDACTED]

Findings

Based on our discussions with [REDACTED] and this additional information, we concluded that the issues she raised were primarily related to potential problems with the management of this Center and possible plagiarism, but there was no evidence of criminal conduct. Consequently, we are closing this case and opening a misconduct case.

This case is closed.