

[REDACTED] a program director [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] received a fax from [REDACTED] (the complainant), the principal investigator for the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The complainant alleged that [REDACTED] (the subject), the project director working directly under the principal investigators, had included false statements in her curriculum vitae; failed to supervise staff; failed to follow directives from the principal investigators in a timely fashion; failed to follow university, state, and federal policies and procedures; exhibited racial insensitivity; failed to administer the project effectively; and misrepresented the project and the university to outsiders. The NSF program director brought the matter to OIG for review.

OIG concluded that most of these matters were administrative problems that should be handled by university officials or NSF program staff and did not raise allegations of misconduct in science. The one exception was the allegation of false statements on the subject's curriculum vitae. The subject claimed that she had 65 credits toward a doctoral degree, but later explained that these included anticipated credits that she in fact was unable to complete and graduate credits taken before she enrolled in a degree granting program and not accepted at any one university as counting toward a doctoral degree. Her vita also did not make clear that she was no longer a high school principal at the time she applied for a position with the project, but had returned to classroom teaching.

Making false statements on a curriculum vitae can, under some circumstances, constitute misconduct in science. In this case, however, both the subject's status on the project and the nature of her statements led OIG to conclude that this was not a serious deviation from accepted practice. The subject was not a principal investigator, was not included as one of the key personnel in the original proposal, and was accurately described in the second year progress report as a person with extensive experience [REDACTED] education. The subject's curriculum vitae was not included in either the original proposal or the progress report. Her inaccurate statements about her progress toward a doctorate did not in any way influence NSF decisions about this project, nor did they mislead NSF or the project about her capacity to do the work for which she was hired. According to one of the persons who

interviewed her for her position, "at no time did she lead anyone on the panel to believe that she either had a Ph.D. or that the award of a Ph.D. was imminent. Her description of her course work consisted of a statement that attempts to attain a degree were years old." Two interviewers have stated that she clearly indicated at her interview that she was no longer a school principal.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

 12/17/93

Concurrence:

Donald E. Buzzelli 12/17/93

Donald E. Buzzelli
Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

noted

James J. Zwolenik

James J. Zwolenik
Assistant Inspector General for Oversight

WFL for LNB

L. Nancy Birnbaum
Assistant Counsel to the Inspector General

cc: Signatories
Inspector General