

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

November 16, 2012



Dear Colleague:

We are initiating a national search for the National Science Foundation's Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE), and seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. Myron Gutmann has served in this position, with distinction, since November 2009.

The Assistant Director, SBE, manages a Directorate comprising the division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), the division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES), the SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA), and the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the Directorate's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with the criteria that will be used in the search. Employment may be on a temporary or permanent basis in the Federal Service or by temporary assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Gary D. Sandefur, Professor of Sociology and Dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, has agreed to head the Search Advisory Committee. Both we and the Committee seek your help in identifying candidates with the following qualifications: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the social, behavioral, and economic science communities, especially in the areas of education and research; expertise with the production, analysis and dissemination of public data and statistics; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF senior management team. We are especially interested in identifying women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities for consideration. Recommendations of individuals from any sector -- academic, industry, or government -- are welcome.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information which you might be able to provide, to the AD/SBE Screening Committee via e-mail (sbesrch@listserv.nsf.gov) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving your recommendations by January 18, 2012.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Subra Suresh".

Subra Suresh
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cora B. Marrett".

Cora B. Marrett
Deputy Director

Enclosures

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Search Committee Review Criteria for Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (AD/SBE), NSF

We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:

Strategic Vision

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in the social, behavioral, and economic science communities.
- Ability to think strategically and formulate integrated plans for research and education activities in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, especially at the interfaces of, and boundaries with, other disciplines.
- Ability to bring about strategic change, both within and outside the organization, to meet organizational goals. Includes the ability to establish an organizational vision and to implement it in a continuously changing environment.

Leadership, Direction, Representation

- Ability to lead people toward meeting the organization's vision, mission, and goals. Includes the ability to provide an inclusive workplace that fosters the development of others, facilitates cooperation and teamwork, and supports constructive resolution of conflicts. Ability to provide innovative and transformative leadership of people, reflective of NSF's organizational values.
- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior management team, helping to develop consensus both within the SBE directorate and across the agency on policy and plans.
- Ability to plan, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research and education programs and to forge government-industry-university partnerships.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of approximately 119 scientific and administrative professionals; ability to manage human, financial, and information resources strategically.
- Ability to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans to the external community, including the public, Congress, industry, and colleagues in other disciplines.
- Ability to meet organizational goals and customer expectations. Includes the ability to make decisions that produce high-quality results by applying technical knowledge, analyzing problems, and calculating risks.

Commitment

- Commitment to transforming the frontiers, innovating for society, and performing as a model organization goals of the NSF Strategic Plan and to the strategies for achieving these goals through developing intellectual capital, integrating research and education, and promoting partnerships and an ability to conceptualize the role of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the appointment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflect the diversity of our nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.
- Commitment to equitable representation of underrepresented groups in the national enterprise.

Credibility within Research and Education Community

- Substantial research contributions and experience in academic, government and/or private national research and education endeavors as evidenced in publications, innovative leadership in research administration and/or professional leadership awards.
- Ability to build coalitions internally and with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit and private sector organizations, foreign governments, or international organizations to achieve common goals.
- Demonstrated commitment to scholarship and significant scientific contributions to the social, behavioral, and economic science communities.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences are conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research and education.

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**The National Science Foundation
Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)**

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. Its vision is to enable the nation's future through its strategic goals of transforming the frontiers, innovating for society, and performing as a model organization. The Foundation seeks to realize these goals using five core values: vision, dedication to excellence, learning and growing, broad inclusiveness, and accountability to the research community and the taxpayer. NSF invests in supporting research that will advance the frontiers of knowledge and establish the nation as a leader in transformational science; cultivating a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce and scientifically literate citizenry; building the nation's research capacity with critical investments in advanced instruments, tools and facilities; and cultivating a capable and responsive organization that promotes excellence in science and engineering research and education.

The **Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences** (SBE) is one of seven NSF directorates. The focus of the SBE Directorate is to strengthen the capability of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences (their knowledge bases and systems, institutions, and human and physical resources) to strengthen the national capacity to perform and innovate. Increased innovation contributes to our national prosperity, security, and welfare. The Directorate's goals and strategies mirror those of the Foundation. The Directorate includes the Divisions of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) and Social and Economic Sciences (SES), the SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA), and the National Center for Science and Statistics (NCSES). The Directorate staff of approximately 119 employees administers a budget of approximately \$250 million annually.

The **Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences** (AD/SBE) serves as a key member of NSF's senior management and policy team and provides leadership and direction to the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate programs and initiatives. The incumbent is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities, and policy within the framework of statutory and National Science Board authority. NSF seeks a candidate with outstanding leadership abilities; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the social, behavioral, and economic science communities in the areas of education and research; expertise with the production, analysis and dissemination of public data and statistics; and a commitment to the goals and strategies of the National Science Foundation.