



# Enhancing Support of Transformative Research at NSF



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Update to National Science Board

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# NSF Approach

- ***Infuse*** support of Potentially Transformative Research (PTR) throughout NSF and all its programs
- ***Learn*** how to facilitate PTR
- ***Lead*** the community through opportunities for PTR proposal submissions



# Developments Since August NSB Meeting

- Important Notice on Transformative Research
- NSF Working Group on Transformative and Interdisciplinary Research
- Solicitation for Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation
- Enhanced Merit Review Training



# Important Notice on Transformative Research September 24, 2007

- Sent to Presidents of Universities/Colleges; Heads of other NSF Awardee Organizations
- Revised Intellectual Merit Review Criterion
  - Effective October 1, 2007: All new funding opportunities incorporate revised Criterion
  - Effective January 5, 2008: All proposals reviewed against revised Criterion
- Anticipated Funding Mechanisms
  - “Early concept” research projects
  - PTR infused throughout NSF Programs



# Working Group on Transformative Research

- Charge
  - Develop “Early Concept” funding mechanisms
  - Recommend policies/practices that promote support of PTR NSF-wide
  - Develop mechanisms to evaluate impact
  - Report to Director/Deputy Director
- Membership
  - NSF-wide representation



# Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation

- Solicitation released September 28, 2007
- Incorporates revised intellectual merit review criterion
- Explicit call for PTR
- Explicit attention by reviewers and program officers to identify PTR



# Merit Review Course

- Enhances NSF's Merit Review Training
- Required of NSF staff
- Includes emphasis on support of PTR
- Identification of effective practices
- Initial offering of course in FY 2008
- Leadership of Division Directors in course development



# Next Steps

- Implementation of change to Intellectual Merit Review Criterion
  - Guidance to reviewers and panels
  - Discussions with Advisory Committees
  - Outreach to community
- Development of new funding mechanisms
  - Update Board at February meeting
- Implementation of merit review course
- Continued activities promoting PTR throughout NSF

