

**OIRM Update**  
**for the B&O Advisory Committee Meeting (Fall 2018)**

**OIRM Senior Staff Changes**

- There have been several changes to OIRM Senior Staff since we last saw you in June.
  - Donna Butler, Head of OIRM, left NSF in July to take a position with the U.S. State Department, Office of Inspector General. I (Wonzie Gardner) have moved over to be Acting Head of OIRM after serving as Acting Deputy Head of OIRM.
  - Linnea Avallone is Acting Deputy Head of OIRM. Linnea is on detail from the Directorate of Geosciences.
  - In the Division of Administrative Services (DAS), Peggy Gartner is currently Acting Division Director of DAS.
  - In the Division of Human Resource Management (HRM), Dianne Campbell Krieger, Division Director, has left NSF to take a position at the U.S. Marshals Service. In addition, Sanya Spencer, Deputy Division Director, is retiring at the end of December.
  - Javier Inclan, previously the Acting Division Director in DAS, will be Acting Division Director in HRM.

**Transit Kiosks**

- In collaboration with the City of Alexandria, NSF installed two transit kiosks on the first floor to help commuters plan their travel. The kiosks are part of a larger demonstration project to install transit displays in key locations around Alexandria to make traveling more convenient for residents, workers, and visitors. The City of Alexandria identified NSF as one of those key locations because of our size and number of visitors.

**Emergency Preparedness Training**

- NSF conducted a number of emergency preparedness activities over the past five months. We held several Active Shooter training sessions, with the support of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service. We conducted a hazmat training exercise with the Alexandria Fire Department. And we held an Emergency Preparedness Town Hall in conjunction with National Preparedness Month. During these sessions, NSF and its partners shared information about the proper steps to take in emergency situations and addressed questions from participants regarding agency evacuations, visitor screening, safety, security, and other emergency preparedness topics.

**NSF.gov Website Modernization**

- OIRM's Division of Administrative Services is continuing its effort to modernize the NSF website. Since we last met, we have selected a contractor to provide user-centered agile

development services to build out the site. The first phase is focusing on the Career Opportunities pages, which provide information for potential permanent and rotator staff.

### FEVS 2018 and Employee Engagement

- The results of the 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) were released this Fall and disseminated across NSF. All results are available to staff via the FEVS Center website.
- NSF has four straight years of sustained improvement across all key indices tracked – Employee Engagement, Global Satisfaction, New Inclusion Quotient, Career Development, Performance & Recognition, and Workload.
- NSF is ranked seventh among all Federal agencies on Employee Engagement and Global Satisfaction.
- Each of the directorates and offices is looking at its data and updating its employee engagement action plan. Our Employee Engagement Program Manager is meeting with each directorate and office to advise them on opportunities to continue to build engagement. We provide support where requested for facilitation of focus groups, development of solutions, or conducting more extensive analysis of employee engagement data.
- NSF has implemented an ongoing communications campaign releasing articles on engagement topics related to career development, building productive employee/supervisor relationships, and promoting collaborative teamwork. We also have a module in NSF's Federal Supervision course directly addressing employee engagement practices.

### IT News

- Our ongoing focus in FY19 and beyond is preserving secure, reliable day-to-day operations for our IT systems and services, while maintaining flexibility to respond to emerging agency priorities.
- We continue to introduce **modernized IT services that improve the external research community's experience when interacting with NSF while allowing NSF's workforce to realize efficiencies in grants management processes.**
  - Since April, as a new release under the Proposal Submission Modernization (PSM) initiative, proposers may prepare and submit full, non-collaborative proposals in Research.gov. This web application provides easier and more powerful features to prepare and submit proposals. The streamlined, intuitive user interface provides real time feedback from automated compliance checks and inline help, and links guide the proposer through the submission process. The application has not experienced any unscheduled outages since its release in April. To date, 552 proposals have been submitted in Research.gov through PSM.

- In March, NSF introduced new account management functionality for external grant systems to streamline maintenance of user accounts and to provide a central point of access for managing user profile data and permission information. This helps NSF improve account and profile data accuracy, eliminate duplicate accounts, and increase data pre-population opportunities to reduce administrative burden for PIs. The profile management functionality will be the foundation for the initiative to standardize Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support for NSF PIs, under development in FY19.
- The Suggest Reviewer Dashboard, which went live in August, automates and streamlines the process of identifying potential reviewers. The tool finds similar past proposals based on project summary, project description, and proposal title to identify potential reviewers and to detect potential conflicts of interest.
- Enterprise Reporting (ER) has brought in additional business application datasets, created new dashboards, enhanced existing standard reports, and introduced innovative capabilities to help support the merit review process. This functionality is used to produce reports that assist with award funding, meeting preparation, and financial tracking, helping NSF staff to make data-driven decisions.
- NSF remains focused on **building resiliency and redundancy in our IT infrastructure**. With the move to Alexandria and introduction of new facility power systems, NSF will benefit from increased systems availability and reduced planned outages for maintenance. NSF continues to modernize legacy systems and implement cloud solutions where practicable.
- We continue to **explore ways to bring emerging technologies to NSF**, using agile approaches and pilot efforts to speed deployment. For example, BFA and OIRM are partnering on the introduction of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) as an approach to automate repetitive, previously manual tasks. These “intelligent bots” may have broad utilization throughout NSF, enabling us to redirect our energies toward strategic efforts.
- While modernizing and maintaining secure operations, NSF also **maintains a strong compliance profile among Federal agencies**. Last summer, NSF was recognized for progress in exceeding Data Center Optimization Initiative (DCOI) targets for systems virtualization and consolidation under the Federal IT Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA). In IT security, the NSF OIG rated NSF's IT Security Program as "Effective" in their FY18 Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) review and report.