

NSF PROGRAM DIRECTOR SESSION

Organizers: Shahrzad Roshankhah, *University of Utah*; Andrew Bunger, *University of Pittsburgh*;
Rita Okoroafor, *Texas A&M University*; Mengsu Hu, *Lawrence Berkeley National
Laboratory*; Wei Li, *Stony Brook University*.

Date and time: Sunday, 23 June 2024, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Cost: Free.

Overview

Join us for an exclusive opportunity to connect with Dr. Giovanna Biscontin, the Engineering for Civil Infrastructure (ECI) program director at the National Science Foundation (NSF). In this three-hour meeting, you will have the chance to:

- Gain valuable insights into ECI's funding priorities;
- Learn how to craft a successful grant proposal; and
- Network with fellow researchers to exchange ideas.

Whether you are new to NSF grants or have previous experience, this meeting offers a unique platform to enhance your understanding of the funding landscape and boost your career. Do not miss this chance to connect, learn, and make strides in your academic journey.

Note: Dr. Biscontin will be also available after this meeting and during the symposium to meet with interested researchers on a one-on-one basis. Please contact her directly at gibiscon@nsf.gov to arrange your meetings with her.

Please contact any of the organizers listed below with any questions:

Shahrzad Roshankhah (shahrzad.roshankhah@utah.edu), Andrew Bunger (BUNGER@pitt.edu),
Rita Okoroafor (ritaok@exchange.tamu.edu), Mengsu Hu (mengsuhu@lbl.gov), Wei Li
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Proposed schedule

1. Welcome and introduction (20 minutes)

- Opening remarks and brief introduction of the program director (A. Bunger)
- Brief introduction of the attendees (name, institution, starting year, research area).

2. Overview of ECI funding opportunities and priorities (30 minutes)

- Presenting various funding priorities of ECI
- Highlights of recent successful projects funded by ECI
- Q&A

3. Crafting a competitive proposal (45 minutes)

- Tips and strategies for preparing a strong NSF grant proposal
- Common pitfalls to avoid
- Q&A

Break (10 minutes)

4. Success stories from early career researchers (45 minutes)

- Panel discussion with three researchers who have received NSF funding (facilitator: R. Okoroafor)

5. NSF proposal review process (15 minutes)

- Insights into the review process and tips for addressing reviewer feedback (G. Biscontin)
- Q&A

6. Resources and support (15 minutes)

- Information on NSF's resources, tools, and support available to researchers
- Q&A