



How to Write Winning NSF Proposals (A Former Program Director's Perspectives)



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Time: 2 – 3 pm, Thursday, 10/20/2016

Location: EE 101

This talk will be different from many other talks (and articles) on how to write winning NSF proposals. Based on his experiences of serving as an NSF program director for four years, writing his own funded NSF proposals (including his CAREER proposal), organizing NSF CAREER proposal writing workshops every year since 2004, and mentoring faculty members (as well as his PhD students) to write winning NSF proposals (especially CAREER proposals), the presenter will discuss commonly seen weaknesses in NSF proposals, and key features of winning NSF proposals. After the talk, he will be available to answer questions.

ZJ Pei is a professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University. Prior to joining TAMU, he was the program director of the Manufacturing Machines and Equipment program at NSF for four years. As the program director (and a panelist), he has organized (and participated) in more than 50 panels, and processed (and reviewed) about 1,000 proposals. As a researcher, he has written many NSF proposals, and almost all his NSF proposals have eventually been awarded. After receiving his CAREER award in 2004, he initiated and developed the CAREER Proposal Writing workshop. Sponsored by NSF, this workshop has been held in different locations across the country annually since 2004. More than 1,400 young faculty members from across the nation have attended this workshop. Data from previous workshops suggest that the success rate of the participants is considerably higher than the overall NSF average. He has also mentored many faculty members to write winning NSF proposals. He has graduated 12 PhD students and six of them currently are faculty members (four in U.S. and two in China). All of the four U.S. faculty members have received NSF awards (including one CAREER award).