Infusing HBCU Talents in the NSF’s Peer Review Process

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NSF’s perceptions of the benefits of being a reviewer:

In addition to providing a great service to NSF and the science and engineering community, reviewers benefit from reviewing and serving on panels. For example, reviewers gain first hand knowledge of the peer review process; learn about common problems with proposals; discover strategies to write strong proposals; and, through serving on a panel, meet colleagues and NSF program officers managing programs related to your interests.
Steps To Become An NSF Reviewer

Step 1: Pick some NSF programs that fit your expertise.

- Make a list of the NSF programs to which you have submitted proposals and those to which you would like to submit proposals to or go on the NSF website and start looking for programs that reflect your areas of expertise.
- Find out the names and emails of program officers from two or three of those programs.
- Ask others around you if they know any of those program officers.
Step 2: In an email to the program officers introduce yourself and identify your areas of expertise, and let them know that you are interested in becoming a peer reviewer.

- Draft the email.
- Ask the person sitting next to you to review it.
- Revise the email as needed.
Step 3: Attach a 2-page CV with current contact information to your email.

- If you have a CV with you, look at it and decide what changes you need to make to sell yourself to the program officer as a great choice as a reviewer.
- If you don’t have a CV with you, outline what your 2-page CV should include.
Step 4: Share this request with other colleagues who might be interested in serving as NSF reviewers.

- Make a list of folks who you think would be good NSF reviewers.
- Send them an email, with this link, and suggest they apply https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/reviewer.jsp
HBCUs represent a tiny percentage of American colleges — around 3% of schools – but they produce 24% of Black STEM grads and confer almost 35 percent of all bachelor’s degrees earned by Black graduates in astronomy, biology, chemistry, math, and physics*.

Eight of the top 10 institutions producing Black undergrads who went on to earn science and engineering doctorates were HBCUs**.

What else do you want the other reviewers to know about HBCUs?

*http://www.americanradioworks.org/segments/hbcu-history/
Fisk University

Founded in 1866, Fisk ranks in the top 10% of all liberal arts institutions in the nation and “#1 Liberal Arts HBCU in Research” according to Washington Monthly. Fisk ranked in the top 20 % of 650 higher education institutions and is the highest ranked HBCU on Forbes’ “2012 Top Colleges List.” The Princeton Review’s “Best Southeastern Colleges” has included Fisk in its rankings for twenty consecutive years. Fisk is #5 on U.S. News and World Report’s “The Best Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).”
What do you want the other reviewers to know about your HBCU?

- History?
- Indicators of quality?
- Student successes?
- Unique programs?
- Other things?

Go on line now and find out what you need to learn about your HBCU.
Being The Only: Making Your Voice Heard
Next Steps

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