**NSF CAREER Toolkit**

Office of Proposal Development

Florida State University

**Project Description Outline**

**Note: This outline is intended only as a resource to help applicants think about how to write the project description. The questions posed are designed to get PI’s thinking about their project, and may not need to be explicitly answered. This format is not an NSF requirement, and applicants are free to format their project description however they like.**

**Introduction (1 page)**

What do you want to do? / What is the goal of the proposed project?

This project contributes to the PI’s long term career goal of…..

What are your goals for the next 5, 10, 20 years?

Why is this project important?

Include 1-2 sentences on intellectual merit and 1-2 sentences on broader impacts along with more thorough description of significance

What are the research and educational goals of the project?

**Intellectual Merits (~0.5 page)**

Provide a detailed description of the intellectual merits of the proposed work

**Broader Impacts (~0.5 page)**

Provide a full broader impacts statement.

**Results from Prior NSF Work (only if applicable)**

Provide:

1. NSF Award number, amount, and period of support
2. Title of the project
3. A summary of the results of the completed work
4. A listing of the publications resulting from the project.
5. Evidence of research products and their availability

If more than one award, report only on the one most related to the current proposal. NSF supported graduate fellowships, equipment grants, and educational grants.

**Background (1 page)**

What is the current state of knowledge in the field?

What are some of the PI’s past research and education accomplishments?

Describe any preliminary data that is relevant to the project

Not quite a formal literature review, but close.

**Proposed Research Activities** **(7-9 Pages)**

What is/are your research hypothesis?

What specific tasks and activities are planned?

How will you evaluate the success of these tasks?

What is the expected significance of your results?

How will the work conducted here influence other work to be done in the future?

How is the proposed work innovative/creative?

What is the timeline for completing the proposed tasks?

Do you have any collaborators? Describe the collaboration.

**Proposed Education/Outreach Activities (4-5 Pages)**

What are the specific proposed education activities?

Who is the audience for your education activities?

How will you measure the impact of these activities?

How are the education and research activities integrated?

Do you have any industrial collaborators?

How do these education activities fit into your career teaching goals?