NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

March 7, 2016

Dear Colleague:

We are initiating a national search for the National Science Foundation's Assistant Director for Geosciences (GEO) and seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. Roger Wakimoto has served in this position, with distinction, since February 2013.

The Assistant Director, GEO, leads a directorate comprised of four divisions: Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences (AGS), Earth Sciences (EAR), Ocean Sciences (OCE), and Polar Programs (PLR). Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the directorate's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with the criteria that will be used in the search.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Ralph Cicerone, President of the National Academy of Sciences, will head the search committee. We seek your help in identifying candidates with the following qualifications: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the geosciences in the areas of research and education; experience developing and overseeing complex scientific facilities; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF management team. Recommendations of individuals from any sector — academic, industry, or government — are welcome. The National Science Foundation is an equal opportunity employer committed to employing a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information that you can provide, to the AD/GEO Search Committee via e-mail (geosrch@nsf.gov) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving your recommendations by May 20, 2016.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.

Sincerely,

France A. Córdova
Director

Enclosures

Search Committee Review Criteria
for the Assistant Director for Geosciences (AD/GEO), NSF

We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:

Strategic Vision

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities across the geosciences.
- Ability to think strategically and formulate integrated plans for research and education activities in the geosciences, especially at the interfaces of, and boundaries with, other disciplines.
- Ability to bring about strategic change, both within and outside the organization, to meet organizational goals. Includes the ability to establish an organizational vision and to implement it in a continuously changing environment.

Leadership, Direction, Representation

- Ability to lead people toward meeting the organization's vision, mission, and goals. Includes the ability to provide an inclusive workplace that fosters the development of others, facilitates cooperation and teamwork, and supports constructive resolution of conflicts. Ability to provide innovative and transformative leadership of people, reflective of NSF's organizational values.
- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior management team, helping to develop consensus both within the GEO directorate and across the agency on policy and plans.
- Ability to plan, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research and education programs and to forge government-industry-university partnerships.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of approximately 193 scientific and administrative professionals; ability to manage human, financial, and information resources strategically.
- Ability to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans to the external community, including the public, Congress, industry, and colleagues in other disciplines.
- Ability to meet organizational goals and customer expectations. Includes the ability to make decisions that produce high-quality results by applying technical knowledge, analyzing problems, and calculating risks.

Commitment

- Commitment to transforming the frontiers of science and engineering, stimulating innovation and addressing societal needs through research and education, and exceling as a federal science agency goals of the NSF Strategic Plan and to the strategies for achieving these goals through developing intellectual capital, integrating research and education, and promoting partnerships and an ability to conceptualize the role of the geosciences in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the appointment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflect the diversity of our Nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.
- Commitment to equitable representation of underrepresented groups in the national enterprise.

Credibility within Research and Education Community

- Substantial research contributions and experience in academic, government and/or private national research and education endeavors as evidenced in publications, innovative leadership in research administration and/or professional leadership awards.
- Ability to build coalitions internally and with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit and private sector organizations, foreign governments, or international organizations to achieve common goals.
- Demonstrated commitment to scholarship and significant scientific contributions to the geosciences.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the geosciences are conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research and education.

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The National Science Foundation
Directorate for Geosciences

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. Its vision is to enable the Nation's future through its strategic goals of transforming the frontiers of science and engineering, stimulating innovation and addressing societal needs through research and education, and exceling as a federal science agency. The Foundation seeks to realize these goals using five core values: scientific excellence, organizational excellence, learning, inclusiveness, and accountability for public benefit. NSF invests in research and education that will advance the frontiers of knowledge and establish the Nation as a leader in transformational science; cultivate a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce and scientifically literate citizenry; build the Nation's research capacity with critical investments in advanced instruments, tools and facilities; and cultivate a capable and responsive organization that promotes excellence in science and engineering research and education.

The **Directorate for Geosciences** (GEO) is one of seven NSF directorates and is organized into four divisions: Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences (AGS), Earth Sciences (EAR), Ocean Sciences (OCE), and Polar Programs (PLR). The Directorate employs approximately 193 staff members and administers a budget of approximately $1.3 billion. GEO is responsible for a large part of the Foundation's major research facilities portfolio, which includes innovative instruments such as EarthScope, the Ocean Observatories Initiative, the nation's fleet of ocean-going research vessels, as well as the U.S. Antarctic Program.

The **Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences** (AGS) supports investigations into the behavior of the earth's atmosphere and its interactions with the sun. This includes the study of the physics, chemistry and dynamics of the upper and lower atmosphere, climate processes, and the natural global cycles of particles and gasses in the atmosphere. AGS also supports the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), and U.S. participation in international climate research programs.

The **Division of Earth Sciences** (EAR) funds research into the structure, composition, and evolution of the Earth. EAR-supported researchers examine the planet's changing environments, the natural distribution of mineral, water, and energy resources, as well as methods for predicting and mitigating the effects of geologic hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides.

The **Division of Ocean Sciences** (OCE) supports research, infrastructure, and education to advance understanding of all aspects of the global oceans and ocean basins, including their interactions with people and the integrated Earth system.

The **Division of Polar Programs** (PLR) oversees the agency's research and infrastructure portfolio in the Arctic and Antarctic. This includes fundamental scientific research in these regions, along with logistics and operational support — field stations, camps, ships, and airplanes — for both Artic researchers and the U.S. Antarctic Research Program.

The **Assistant Director for Geosciences** (AD/GEO) serves as a key member of NSF's senior policy team and provides leadership and direction to GEO's programs and initiatives. The incumbent is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities, and policy within the framework of statutory and National Science Board authority. NSF seeks a candidate with outstanding leadership abilities; a demonstrated commitment to scholarship; a grasp of the issues and opportunities facing geosciences; and a commitment to the goals and strategies of the National Science Foundation.