

# Tackling the Broader Impacts Challenge: Advice and Resources

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# Agenda

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- Context
- NSF “guidance”
- Some UNL examples
- Some advice
- Resources

# Context

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- One of two merit review criteria used to evaluate *all* NSF proposals
- Must be *explicitly* addressed in the grant application
- Most proposers have little difficulty describing the **Intellectual Merit** of their work
- Many proposers have difficulty framing the **Broader Impacts** of their work

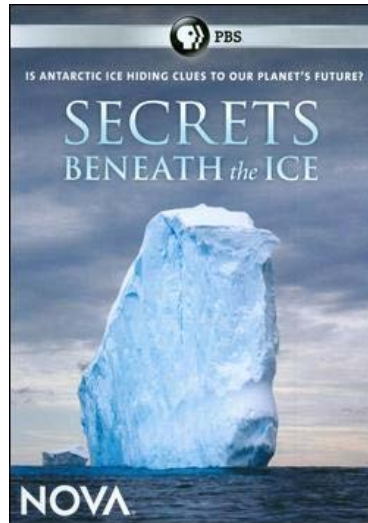
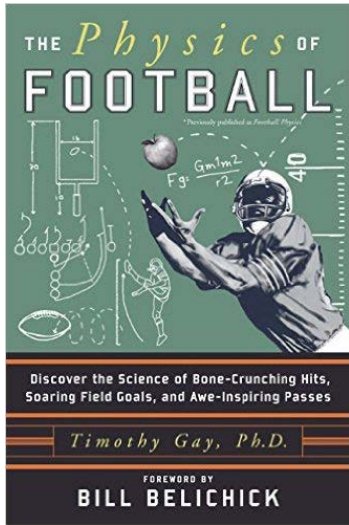
# NSF “Guidance”

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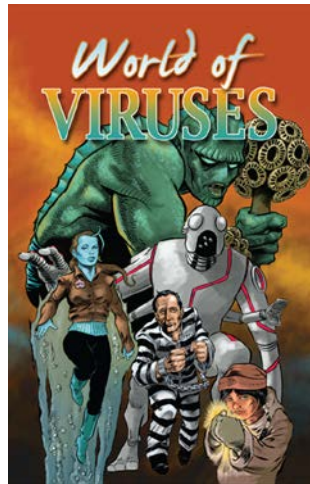


- What is the potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?
  - How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?
  - How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)?
  - To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?
  - Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
  - What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

# Some UNL Examples



Nebraska Conference for  
**Undergraduate Women**  
in Mathematics



# Some Advice

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- In terms of broader impact, focus on quality not quantity
- Your plan should be reasonable and feasible given the scope of work you are proposing and your other professional duties
- Include a request for broader impacts activity in your budget (including evaluation) or explain **extremely** well why such costs are not included
- Think about gaps in your field (e.g., participation), where your passion lies (e.g., outreach, formal/informal education), and develop your broader impacts accordingly
- Do not re-invent the wheel – leverage existing partnerships and infrastructure when possible
- Ask for help if you get stuck

# Resources

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- Nebraska Extension
- Nebraska 4-H
- College of Journalism and Mass Communications
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
- University of Nebraska State Museum
- Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET)
- Kutak Center for the Teaching and Study of Applied Ethics
- Nebraska EPSCoR
- *Others too numerous to mention...*
- Office of Proposal Development

Note: For additional ideas, see “Scientists in Science Education,” online at [http://www.ashg.org/education/pdf/Scientist\\_in\\_Science\\_Education\\_BSCS.pdf](http://www.ashg.org/education/pdf/Scientist_in_Science_Education_BSCS.pdf)



## Questions?

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