NSF Project Outcomes Report for the General Public

As part of the America COMPETES Act, research funded by the National Science Foundation will require an additional final report for the general public about the outcomes of funded research. This requirement is effective for new awards made or existing awards that receive funding increments or supplements on or after January 4, 2010. The Project Outcomes Report should be a brief summary (200-800 words), prepared specifically for the general public, of the nature and outcomes of the project.

The report should be written by the Principal Investigator or co-Investigator and describe the project outcomes or findings that address the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the work as defined in the NSF merit review criteria. This report must be submitted electronically within 90 days following the expiration of any NSF grant, and will be displayed verbatim as submitted for public viewing. Principal Investigators will have the ability to edit the report for 30 days after it has been submitted. After the 30-day period, the report may not be edited.

Because Project Outcome Reports will become a permanent part of the public record, USU policies stipulate that they must not contain confidential or proprietary information, invention disclosures that might adversely affect patent rights, unpublished conclusions or data that might compromise future ability to publish results, or any private information collected from human research participants.

To ensure NSF Project Outcome Reports adhere to university policies, the Vice President for Research will require all Outcomes Reports to be reviewed internally before they are submitted electronically by the Principal Investigator, according to the following procedure:

1. A draft Outcomes Report must be submitted by the Principal Investigator or co-Investigator to the Vice President for Research Office within 45 days following the expiration of the grant, to allow for a timely USU review and Principal Investigator final report submission to NSF.

2. The draft Outcomes Report will be reviewed by the Vice President for Research or a designee, to verify and ensure that the Report is consistent with university policies.

3. If no concerns are noted, the Principal Investigator will be instructed to proceed with electronic submission of the approved Project Outcome Report through www.research.gov. If concerns are encountered, the Research Office will work with the Principal Investigator to modify the report so that it does not contradict university policy. In all instances, final authorization to submit is vested with the Vice President for Research.

Additional information regarding NSF Project Outcome Reports can be found at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pofaqs.jsp.