

### **Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award**

*Taken from the NSF Grant Writers Workbook, page 18/19*

The purpose of this highly prestigious grant mechanism is to help launch the career of a tenure-track assistant professor who wants to establish a life-long career as a teacher-scholar-someone who uses his/her research as a 'magnet' that will motivate students, especially undergraduates, to learn more, better. In other words, it is not meant to be for career development in the usual sense of the word. One way to look at the CAREER Award application is as a standard research grant with an educational plan added. The secret to success with this grant mechanism is tight integration of the research and educational plans, such that an important educational problem is solved as a result of the Candidate's research efforts. Many CAREER Award applications fail, even though they have excellent research and educational plans, because the two components are written as independent, stand-alone programs, rather than being fully integrated.