

## Comment on proposed change to PAPPG

Kaye Storm <kstorm@stanford.edu>

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To: Plimpton, Suzanne H. <splimpto@nsf.gov>;

Dear Dr. Plimpton,

In my capacity at Stanford, I work with many PIs on their NSF proposals, specifically on their ideas for education and achieving a Broader Impact (BI).

I'm writing in response to the proposed change in the Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) for 2019 dealing with the "Synergistic Activities" Section (Section D) of the Biosketch. Stanford PIs often use that opportunity to describe some of their previous approaches and track record in addressing NSF's BI criterion. But the proposed change does not elaborate on what constitutes an example. Thus, the strictest interpretation of "a single example" might well limit proposers to a stripped-down list of activities devoid of context and background to help reviewers assess the significance of their past broader impacts contributions.

I hope NSF will re-consider this change and continue to take a flexible stance, allowing proposers to use their discretion in describing five single examples (with context and background), or up to five categories of broader impacts/synergistic activities that may include a few representative examples in each category, so long as the overall two-page limit for biosketches is not exceeded. If this new wording change is instituted as proposed, I hope NSF will at minimum clarify the meaning of "a single example" and provide a set of clear samples to show what is permitted in this section.

Thank you very much for allowing me to provide this comment.

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