INSTRUCTIONS: **Delete all blue text prior to completion.** NSF encourages organizations to value and reward the integration of research and education and the effective mentoring of its early-career faculty in their department. This integration of research and education requires close collaboration between the CAREER Principal Investigator (PI) and his/her organization throughout the duration of the award. To demonstrate the department’s support of the career development plan of the PI, the proposal must include one (and only one) letter from the PI's department head (or equivalent organizational official). In cases of joint appointments, the letter should be signed by both department heads. The letter, which will be included as part of the consideration of the overall merits of the proposal, should demonstrate an understanding of, and a commitment to, the effective integration of research and education as a primary objective of the CAREER award.

January 13, 2020

National Science Foundation

425 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22230

The Principal Investigator (PI), **PI NAME,** is eligible for the NSF CAREER program. This letter affirms that the investigator is on a tenure-track appointment, pursuant to the eligibility criteria specified in the program solicitation.

The PI's proposed CAREER research and education activities are supported by and advance the educational and research goals of the **DEPARTMENT NAME** department and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and that the department is committed to the support and professional development of the PI.

**Describe the following:** a) the relationship between the CAREER project, the PI's career goals and job responsibilities, and the mission of his/her department/organization, and b) the ways in which the department head (or equivalent) will ensure the appropriate mentoring of the PI, in the context of the PI's career development and his/her efforts to integrate research and education throughout the period of the award and beyond.

With Regards,

**DEPARTMENT CHAIR NAME**

Chair, **DEPARTMENT NAME**

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville