



Call for Resignation of NSF Chief Management Officer
Statement from AFGE Local 3403

May 09, 2025

This week the NSF Chief Management Officer has completely eliminated the Division of Excellence for Equity in STEM (EES), cut 84 Senior Executive Service positions, and announced the imminent elimination of almost 300 temporary employees. These actions make it clear that the Chief Management Officer has no appreciation for the complexities of the NSF.

The actions taken by the CMO clearly violate federal law. Many of the functions of the EES division are required by federal statute. The Administration, and CMO Cheatham, have no legal authority to arbitrarily cancel programs that Congress authorized and funded. CMO Cheatham already has a record of illegal action at the behest of the Administration. In February, the court ruled that the firing of probationary employees, done under CMO Cheatham's leadership, was illegal.

Beyond his willingness to break the law, CMO Cheatham's duplicitous cruelty and callous disregard for the people whose livelihoods are being jeopardized reveal a fundamental unfitness for any role overseeing the lives and work of others.

CMO Cheatham is clearly more interested in appeasing the Administration than in doing the work directed and funded by Congress. NSF employees, including those represented by AFGE Local 3403, have lost confidence, faith and trust in Chief Management Officer Cheatham's ability to perform his duties. We call for his immediate resignation so that the Agency can return to its apolitical focus on discovery, education, and entrepreneurship.

AFGE Local 3403, AFL-CIO