

News from NSF: MARGINS' Decadal Review and Status of the FY10 Budget

MARGINS decadal review committee (DRC) convened by NSF met on February 2nd and 3rd 2009. They were charged to review the Program's accomplishments, future plans and management structure and make recommendations to the Foundation about its continuation. Their work was greatly facilitated by the substantive documentation produced by MARGINS Steering Committee and the community in preparation for the review. The DRC was very appreciative of the hard work and considerable thought that went into producing the documentation, especially the *nuggets* comprising summaries of the projects funded under MARGINS umbrella. The final review report is still pending at the time of this writing and will be disseminated to the community as soon as it is available.

Depending on the outcome of the DRC report, FY 2010 (starting in October 2009) is seen as a period of transition for the MARGINS Program. During the next fiscal year the community at large will have the opportunity to reconsider the Program in its entirety and in detail, and produce new *science plans*, if necessary. This could require considerable investment of time and energy on the part of the community in brain-storming sessions, consultation and planning. Thus, we envision several workshops and group meetings that would be necessary to undertake this task expediently. Because of this transition, for the next proposal submittal deadline (July 1, 2009) MARGINS program at NSF encourages the community to submit proposals for workshops and integrative/synthesis

activities. Proposals for new data collection efforts should be limited to short-duration efforts critical to the completion of such integration and synthesis goals. In addition to these, there are a number of field projects on which funding decisions were made during the last MARGINS competition and these would still be partially or wholly funded from FY 2010 funds. Again, depending on the review results and ensuing science planning activities, the transition to a new program is envisioned to be complete by the end of 2010.

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