

# ATTACHMENT 8: SED Nonrespondent Contact Materials

EMAIL #1—1ST PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE NOT REGISTERED

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Subject: Survey Invitation from the National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. <NR\_LastName>,

Congratulations on earning your doctoral degree! As a recent graduate of <University\_Name>, you are invited to participate in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), a census of all new U.S. research doctorate recipients that has been conducted every year since 1958. The SED is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

Your response contributes to valuable data that are used to analyze the characteristics of doctorate cohorts, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the doctorate education system.

To complete the SED, please go to <https://sed-ncses.org> and use the credentials provided below:

PIN: <caseid>  
Password: <Password>

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data are publicly reported. If you have any questions, please visit the SED information website at <https://sedsurvey.org/> or contact the SED help desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Congratulations again on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Kelly Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

For information on the SED, please visit <https://nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>  
SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

**EMAIL #2—2<sup>nd</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS WHO STILL HAVE NOT REGISTERED**

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Subject: Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <NR\_LastName>,

We recently reached out to you with instructions for completing the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). As a recent doctoral graduate of <University\_Name>, your participation in this year's SED is essential. By completing the survey, you provide valuable information that is used by policymakers and universities to analyze changes in the characteristics of doctorate recipients, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the U.S. doctoral education system.

Please complete the SED online at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credentials below:

PIN: <caseid>  
Password: <Password>

The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be publicly reported. More information about the SED and how your information is protected is attached: [https://sedsurvey.org/content/pdf/Student\\_Brochure.pdf](https://sedsurvey.org/content/pdf/Student_Brochure.pdf).

If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your participation, and congratulations on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Kelly Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

To learn more about the SED and how the results have been used, please visit <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization.

EMAIL #3—3<sup>rd</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <NR\_LastName>,

This is a friendly reminder that we are still waiting for your response to the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate recipients from U.S. universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

It is very important that the survey data are representative of all research doctorate earners from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only data aggregated to levels that do not allow for the identification of individual respondents are released for publication. The SED results are published in an annual report; the reports from earlier surveys are available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>.

Please complete the SED online at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credentials below:

PIN: <caseid>  
Password: <Password>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

FINAL EMAIL PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Importance of Your Participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <NR\_LastName>,

The 2020 Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) will soon be closing and we are reluctant to close this year's survey without your response.

Your information on the 2020 SED will be combined with that of approximately 55,000 other research doctorate recipients from the academic year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020). The SED data are used to help inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make doctorate labor force projections.

To complete the survey, please register at <https://sed-ncses.org> to obtain the web survey access information.

Please rest assured that only aggregated data will be in published reports. To learn more about the SED and how the results are used, please visit <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates/>.

If you have questions, or concerns, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or toll-free at (877) 256-8167.

Thank you for your assistance in this important research effort.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

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NONRESPONSE MAILING #1 – 1st HARDCOPY MAILING TO NONRESPONDENTS

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<Date>

Dr. <NR\_FirstName> <NR\_LastName>  
<NR\_Address1>  
<NR\_Address2>  
<NR\_City>, <NR\_State> <NR\_Zip>

Dear Dr. <NR\_FirstName> <NR\_LastName>:

We would like to extend our congratulations on completing your doctorate!

In light of this achievement, I invite you to participate in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies. SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization for NSF.

Because the SED is used to make important policy decisions about graduate education, it is important that the survey data are representative of all research doctorates in the United States. Your response will be combined with that of approximately 50,000 other research doctorate earners from your academic year.

These aggregated data are used to help inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate programs, and make doctorate labor force projections.

We greatly value your doctoral education experiences and request you complete the SED online at <https://sed-ncses.org> using the following information:

PIN: <caseid>  
Password: <Password>

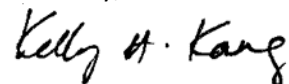
A copy of the survey is enclosed in case you prefer to respond using the paper survey. A postage-paid envelope is provided to return the completed survey.

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be in published reports. The SED results are available at: [www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

Congratulations again on this monumental accomplishment.

Sincerely,



Kelly Kang  
Project Officer  
Survey of Earned Doctorates  
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation

<ID>

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# DATA COLLECTION ENDS SOON!

You can still contribute to important research.

Dear Dr. <FirstNameLastName>:

This is a friendly reminder to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies. If you have already completed the survey, we thank you!

If you haven't, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. We would like to include your responses in this important survey.

We greatly value your doctoral education experiences and request you complete the SED online at:

URL: <https://sed-ncses.org>

PIN: <pin>

Password: <>

<PasswordFill>

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or by telephone toll-free at 1-877-256-8167.

We greatly appreciate your time and effort.



NONRESPONSE MAILING #3—2<sup>nd</sup> HARDCOPY MAILING TO NONRESPONDENTS

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<Date>

Dr. <NR\_FirstName> <NR\_LastName>  
<NR\_Address1>  
<NR\_Address2>  
<NR\_City>, <NR\_State> <NR\_Zip>

Dear Dr. <NR\_FirstName> <NR\_LastName>:

A few weeks ago, we asked for your participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate recipients from U.S. universities sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

We would greatly appreciate your participation as the efficacy and accuracy of this survey rely on a high response rate. Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only data aggregated to levels that does not allow the identification of individual respondents are released for publication.

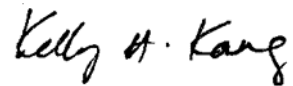
You can complete the survey online by going to: <https://sed-ncses.org/> or if you prefer, complete the enclosed survey and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you have already completed the survey, we thank you for your response.

The SED results will be published in an annual report; the annual reports on earlier surveys are available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>.

This survey is conducted under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization, for NSF. If you have any questions, please contact us at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

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Sincerely,



Kelly Kang  
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National Science Foundation

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