

# ATTACHMENT 8: SED Nonrespondent Contact Materials

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

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Subject: Survey Invitation from the National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

Congratulations on earning your doctoral degree! As a recent graduate of <UniversityName>, 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 H. 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 are used, please visit <https://nces.nsf.gov/sed>

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

EMAIL #1B—1<sup>ST</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE REGISTERED BUT NOT COMPLETED

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Subject: A reminder from the National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

Congratulations on earning your doctoral degree! I am sending you a friendly reminder to please complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). As a recent doctoral graduate of <UniversityName>, your participation in this year's SED is very important.

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 access the survey, please go to <https://sed-ncses.org> and use your credentials below:

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

*If you do not remember the password that you set when you registered for the SED, click the "Reset My Password" link on the login page or contact our Help Desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org).*

The survey asks about your educational history and post-graduation plans, and should only take about 20 minutes to complete. 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 or (877) 256-8167.

Thank you in advance for your participation, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. 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 are used, please visit <https://nces.nsf.gov/sed>

SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

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

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Subject: Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

We recently reached out to you with instructions for completing the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). As a recent doctoral graduate of <UniversityName>, 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 H. 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 are used, please visit <https://ncses.nsf.gov/sed>  
SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](#), a nonprofit research organization.

EMAIL#2B—2<sup>nd</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE REGISTERED, BREAKOFF CASES

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Subject: Please complete your Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

Our records show that you have started the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) but haven't yet completed it. Your timely participation helps to ensure that the data are accurate and useful to policymakers and universities across the country.

You can pick up where you left off at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credentials below:

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

*If you do not remember the password you set when you last accessed the SED, click the "Reset My Password" link on the login page or contact our Help Desk at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org).*

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the survey, please contact the SED Help Desk or (877) 256-8167.

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

Sincerely,

Kelly H. 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 are used, please visit <https://nces.nsf.gov/sed>  
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. <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, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

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 <https://nces.nsf.gov/sed>.

Please complete the SED online at <https://sed-nces.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 H. 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](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

EMAIL #4—4<sup>th</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: National Science Foundation – Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

A few weeks ago, we sent you a reminder to respond to participate 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.

Please consider completing the SED – we would like to include your answers with those of approximately 55,000 other research doctorate earners from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

The SED is used to make important policy decisions about graduate education, and it is important that the survey data are representative of all research doctorates in the United States. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregated data are used in the publications. The SED results are available in an annual report, as well as in the two Congressionally mandated reports - *Science and Engineering Indicators*, and *Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering*.

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.

Congratulations again, on completing your doctorate!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. 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

EMAIL #5—5<sup>th</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Survey of Earned Doctorates – we need your help

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

You are one of only approximately 55,000 research doctorates who earned their degree from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Considering this accomplishment, we ask for your help in completing 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.

By completing the survey, you provide valuable information 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>

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. 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://nces.nsf.gov/sed>

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

EMAIL #6—6<sup>th</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Please remember to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

This is just a friendly reminder to complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) at your earliest convenience.

Data collected from the SED helps federal agencies, policymakers and universities analyze changes in the characteristics of doctorate recipients, assess investments in graduate student support, and make improvements to the U.S. doctoral education system.

You can find out more about the survey results from previous rounds of the SED at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf20301>.

The online survey only takes about 20 minutes, and can be completed at <https://sed-nces.org> using your credential below:

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

You may also call (877) 256-8167 to complete a brief version of the survey over the telephone if you prefer.

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](#).

We look forward to learning about your experiences since earning your doctorate. Congratulations again on your achievement!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. 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://nces.nsf.gov/sed>

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



EMAIL #7—7<sup>th</sup> PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Please complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates

Dear Dr. <LastName>,

We are still conducting the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and three other federal agencies but time is running out and we need your help. As a recent doctoral graduate of <UniversityName>, your participation in the SED is very important. The SED asks about your educational history and post-graduation plans.

I hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to contribute to research that provides valuable data that are used by policymakers and universities. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data are publicly reported.

The online survey only takes about 20 minutes, and can be completed at <https://sed-ncses.org> using your credential below:

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

**If you would prefer to complete a brief version of the survey over the phone, please call 877-256-8167 and reference your Study ID [PIN].**

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). I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. 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://nces.nsf.gov/sed>

SED data are being collected under contract by [RTI International](https://www.rti.org/), a nonprofit research organization, for NSF

EMAIL #8—FINAL PROMPT TO NONRESPONDENTS

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

Dear Dr. <Last Name>,

The 2022 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 2022 SED will be combined with that of approximately 55,000 other research doctorate recipients from the academic year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). 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 H. 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 LETTER/BROCHURE MAILING TO NONRESPONDENTS

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<Date>

<FirstName> <LastName>

<Address>

<City, State, Zip>

Dear Dr. <FirstName> <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:

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

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

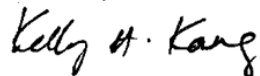
Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be in published reports. The SED results are available at [www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed).

You can view a reference copy of the SED questionnaire at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates>.

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

Congratulations again on this monumental accomplishment.

Sincerely,



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

<controlID>

### HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE PROTECTED?

The confidentiality of any information provided as part of the SED is safeguarded under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. Staff working with data are required to sign binding confidentiality affidavits with fines up to \$250,000 or imprisonment as punishment for disclosure. In addition, the processing facilities and computer equipment used to store or access data are designed and maintained to ensure confidentiality.

### SURVEY SPONSORS

# YOUR PARTICIPATION COUNTS

### HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You can complete the SED at:

<https://sed-ncses.org>

### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

<p><b>National Science Foundation National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics</b> Attention: SED 2415 Eisenhower Ave. Alexandria, VA 22314</p>	<p><b>RTI International – Project: SED</b> Research Operations Center 5265 Capital Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27616 877-256-8167 sed@rti.org</p>
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### WHAT IS THE SED?

The Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) is an annual census of individuals who were awarded a research doctorate from an accredited U.S. institution.

### HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE USED?

Your information will be combined with that of approximately 50,000 other research doctorate earners from your academic year. These combined data will be used by various entities (e.g., universities, federal and state agencies) to inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Additionally, graduate deans may receive data on their own graduates, which they agree to use for statistical purposes only.

Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Only data aggregated to levels that will not allow the identification of individual respondents are released for publication.

### FOR EXAMPLE, RECENT SED RESULTS REVEALED:

- Women earned the majority of research doctorates awarded in education, psychology and social sciences, life sciences, and humanities and arts in 2018. Women earned just over one-third of the 2018 research doctorates awarded in physical and earth sciences and nearly one-fourth of the research doctorates in engineering.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2018, about 75% of doctorate recipients who were Asian or white came from families having at least one parent who had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to between 51% and 57% of doctorate recipients who were Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Hispanic or Latino.<sup>3</sup>
- Sixty-one percent of 2018 research doctorate recipients in life sciences took postdoc positions after graduation, followed by 57% of research doctorate recipients in physical and earth sciences. In other fields, 40% or fewer 2018 research doctorate recipients took postdoc positions.<sup>4</sup>
- Data from the survey are available on the NSF website and in annual reports published online (<http://nsf.gov/statistics/sed/>).

### WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?

As a recipient of a research doctorate, your participation is essential to the federal agencies who sponsor this study to learn more about those who graduate with a research doctoral degree.

### WHO IS SPONSORING THE STUDY?

The study is being conducted on behalf of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics of the National Science Foundation; the National Institutes of Health; the U.S. Department of Education; and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International,<sup>1</sup> a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina.

<sup>1</sup> RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation (NCSES/NSF). 2019. *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2018*. Page 7, figure 11. Special Report NSF-20-301. Alexandria, VA. Available at <https://nces.nsl.gov/pubs/rs/20301/>.

<sup>3</sup> See (NCSES/NSF 2019, p. 8, fig. 14).

<sup>4</sup> See (NCSES/NSF 2019, p. 12, fig. 22).

# 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 LETTER MAILING TO NONRESPONDENTS

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<Date>

<FirstName> <LastName>

<Address>

<City, State, Zip>

Dear Dr. <FirstName> <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 do not allow the identification of individual respondents are released for publication.

You can complete the survey online by going to <https://sed-ncses.org> using the credential below:

Your PIN: <caseID>

Your Password: <Password>

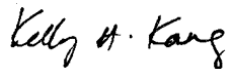
You can view a reference copy of the SED questionnaire at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates>.

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://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.

Congratulations on completing your doctorate.

Sincerely,



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

<controlID>

NONRESPONSE MAILING INTERNATIONAL ADDRESSES

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<Date>

<FirstName> <LastName>

<Address>

<City, State, Zip>

Dear Dr. <FirstName> <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 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:

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

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

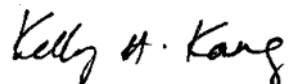
Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be in published reports. The SED results are available at: [www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed).

You can view a reference copy of the SED questionnaire at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates>.

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

<controlID>



EMAIL TO FACULTY ADVISORS OF NONRESPONDENTS

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Subject: Request from the National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. <Advisor First Name> <Advisor Last Name>:

I would like to ask for your assistance with the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), sponsored by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies. We need to find the contact information for one of your former students, <Respondent First Name> <Respondent Last Name>, so we can send an invitation to complete the SED.

As you may know, the SED is an annual census of all research doctorate recipients in the U.S., conducted since 1958. The aggregated survey data are used to help inform government policy, in evaluation of graduate programs, and projection of the doctorate workforce, among many important data uses. Information and data from the SED can be found online at: <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctorates>.

We will soon be closing the SED data collection for the AY2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) graduates and would like to ensure Dr. <Respondent First Name> <Respondent Last Name>'s responses are included in this important national census.

If you have any contact information for Dr. <Respondent Last Name>, please let us know at [sed@rti.org](mailto:sed@rti.org) or (877) 256-8167.

We greatly appreciate your assistance with this important effort.

Sincerely,

Kelly H. 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://nces.nsf.gov/sed>

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

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SURVEY LOGIN INFORMATION EMAIL SENT TO NONRESPONDENTS UPON REQUEST DURING CATI CALL

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Subject: SED Survey Login Information

Dear Dr. <Last Name of Nonrespondent>,

We greatly appreciate your participation in the Survey of Earned Doctorates.

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

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and only aggregate data will be publicly reported.

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,

The SED Project Team

For information on how your information is protected, see  
[https://sedsurvey.org/content/pdf/Student\\_Brochure.pdf](https://sedsurvey.org/content/pdf/Student_Brochure.pdf)

For information on the SED, please visit <https://ncses.nsf.gov/sed>

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

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EMAIL FOLLOW-UP SENT TO NONRESPONDENTS FOLLOWING CATI CALL VOICEMAIL

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Subject: We left you a voicemail message on behalf of NSF

Dear Dr. <LAST NAME>,

A member of our survey team called you and left a voicemail message regarding the Survey of Earned Doctorates. The SED is conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies and the survey data are being collected under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization.

The SED survey will soon come to a close, so we hope you will take just 10 minutes to complete it over the phone or complete it online at your convenience.

The SED is an annual census that gathers information from new research doctorate graduates from U.S. universities about their educational histories, funding sources, and post-doctoral plans. We do not want you to miss out on providing valuable input that will be used to inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be publicly reported.

To complete the survey online, use the secure login credentials to access the survey at <https://sed-ncses.org>:

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

If you would like to complete the survey over the phone with one of our interviewers, please call **877-256-8167** and reference ID number <CASEID>.

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

Dr. Patricia Green,  
SED Project Director  
RTI International

For information on the SED, please visit <https://nces.nsf.gov/sed>

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

EMAIL FOLLOW-UP SENT TO NONRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN 10 CATI CALLS  
WITHOUT CONTACT

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Subject line – A message on behalf of NSF

Dear Dr. <LAST NAME>,

We have tried to contact you several times regarding the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) but have been unsuccessful. We know that receiving unwanted phone calls can be annoying, so we want to reach out to explain the purpose of our calls.

The SED is an annual census that gathers information from new research doctorate graduates from U.S. universities about their educational histories, funding sources, and post-doctoral plans. We don't want you to miss out on providing valuable input that will be used to inform governmental policy, evaluate graduate education programs, and make labor force projections. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential, and only aggregate data will be publicly reported.

To complete the survey online, use the secure login credentials to access the survey at <https://sed-ncses.org>:

PIN: <caseid>

Password: <Password>

To complete a short version of the survey by phone, please call 877-256-8167 and reference ID number [CASEID].

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

Dr. Patricia Green,  
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