



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

Professor Daniel A. Reed, Chair of the ASCAC
Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development
University of Iowa
2660 UCC
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Dear Professor Reed:

Thank you for the excellent Committee of Visitors (COV) review of the Next Generation Networking for Science program. Your report recommendations are helping us to improve the management of this important program.

To help the research communities utilize the capabilities of current and future supercomputers, the Advanced Scientific Computing Research program supports basic research programs in Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Computational Partnerships called Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing or SciDAC, and Next Generation Networking for Science. To ensure the integrity of this research program and to ensure that it is meeting the challenges of the DOE mission, I am asking the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) to assemble a Committee of Visitors to review the management processes for the ASCR research portfolio. As this portfolio includes scientific applications supported by the other programs across the Office of Science and representing a wide array of disciplines, you may wish to have a larger committee than is usual for an ASCAC COV. A report will be expected at the Fall 2017 ASCAC meeting.

The COV should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions and monitor active projects and programs. The panel should assess the operations of the Division's program elements during the fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015. The panel may examine any files from this period for both DOE laboratory projects and university projects. The Committee will be provided with background material on the program prior to the meeting.

I would like the Committee to consider and provide their evaluation of the following two major program elements:

1. For both the DOE laboratory projects and the university projects, assess the efficacy and quality of the processes used to:
 - (a) solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions, and
 - (b) monitor active projects and programs.



2. Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected:
 - (a) the breadth and depth of portfolio elements,
 - (b) the degree to which the program is anticipating and addressing emerging challenges from high performance computing and DOE missions, and
 - (c) the national and international standing of the program with regard to other computational science programs that are also focused on harnessing high performance scientific computing and utilizing massive datasets to advance science.

If you or the COV chair have any questions, please contact Christine Chalk, Designated Federal Official for ASCAC at 301-903-5152 or by e-mail at christine.chalk@science.doe.gov.

I appreciate ASCAC's willingness to undertake this important activity.

Sincerely,



C. A. Murray
Director, Office of Science