



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

Office of the Director

July 26, 2024

Professor Martin Berzins
Chair, Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee
Professor of Computer of Science
Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute
72 S Central Campus Drive, Room 3750
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dear Professor Berzins:

Thank you for the recent Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) report on Facilities Subcommittee Recommendations. The report describes a powerful vision that will surely have a lasting effect on the Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research.

The Office of Science (SC) requires periodic input from ASCAC on specific investments of critical importance to the Department. One of these investments is the Department of Energy (DOE) Computational Sciences Graduate Fellowship (CSGF). A long-standing partnership between the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and SC, this fellowship plays a key role in training the next generation of researchers who are skilled in harnessing the potential of high-performance computing to advance science and engineering. The fellowship also plays a major role in attracting well qualified researchers to the National Laboratories to advance the DOE missions. CSGF has been administered by the Krell Institute since 1997.

By this letter, I am charging ASCAC to assemble a sub-committee to examine the effectiveness and impact of CSGF and the quality and breadth of the program over the past decade. The subcommittee should take into account the unique qualifications and skills of computational scientists and their role in the public and private sectors. It should also address broadening participation of eligible applicants, the projected need for trained computational scientists in the DOE laboratories, and for continued U.S. leadership in computational science. Specifically, I would like the subcommittee to consider and provide an evaluation of the following:

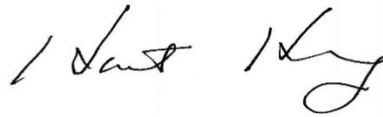
- Does CSGF provide students with an effective and impactful program of appropriate quality and breadth?
- Is there a unique role for CSGF in the landscape of federal graduate fellowship programs?
- Is the program attracting diverse applicants and making awards to diverse cohorts?
- How can CSGF reach a broader applicant pool?

- Is the program appropriately tailored to support the computational scientist workforce needed at the DOE laboratories?
- What is the most effective governance model for the program?
- How should the CSGF evolve to ensure the best experience for students?
- Is the program appropriately supporting students at institutions historically underrepresented in the federal research landscape?

I would appreciate the committee's preliminary comments by October 2024 and a final report by January 2025. I appreciate ASCAC's willingness to undertake this important activity.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ceren Susut, the Designated Federal Official for ASCAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harriet Kung". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H".

Harriet Kung
Acting Director
Office of Science