



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585
March 28, 2014

Office of the Director

Dr. Roscoe Giles, ASCAC Chair
Department of Electrical and Computer
Engineering
Boston University
8 St. Mary's Street
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Dr. Giles:

Thank you for the excellent Committee of Visitors (COV) review of the Applied Mathematics program. I look forward to your report to improve the management of this important program.

To help the research communities utilize the capabilities of current and future supercomputers, the Office of Science also supports a basic research program in computational science called Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing or SciDAC, which ASCAC last reviewed in 2007. 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 (COV) to review the management processes for the SciDAC 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 August 2014 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 Committee should assess the operations of the SciDAC program during the fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013. 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:



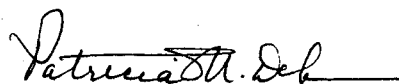
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- (a) solicit, review, recommend, and document proposal actions, and
 - (b) monitor active projects and programs.
2. Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected:
- (a) the breadth 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,



Patricia M. Dehmer
Acting Director of the
Office of Science