



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

March 7, 2011

Office of the Director

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

Dear Professor Giles:

Thank you for the recent Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) report on the challenges and opportunities of exascale computing. The report was thorough, informative, and timely.

In addition to broad initiatives, such as the challenges and opportunities of exascale computing, the Office of Science requires periodic input from the ASCAC on specific investments of critical importance to the Department. One of these investments is the Department of Energy Computational Sciences Graduate Fellowship (DOE-CSGF). A long-standing partnership between the NNSA and the Office of Science, 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 role in attracting very well qualified researchers to the national laboratories to advance to the DOE missions.

By this letter, I am charging the ASCAC to assemble a sub-committee to examine the effectiveness and impact of the CSGF, as compared to other educational activities, and the quality and breadth of the program over the past decade. The sub-committee 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 the participation of women and under-represented minorities, the projected need for trained computational scientists in the DOE laboratories and for continued U.S. leadership in computational science.

I would appreciate the committee's preliminary comments by August 2011 and a final report by November 23, 2011. I appreciate ASCAC's willingness to undertake this important activity.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact either Daniel Hitchcock, the Acting Associate Director of the Office of Science for ASCR or Christine Chalk, the Designated Federal Official for the ASCAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. F. Brinkman".

W. F. Brinkman
Director, Office of Science

