

Dr. Shaun (Yuanshun) Dai
Assistant Professor,
Dept of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science,
Dept of Industrial & Information Engineering
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dear ORU Reviewers,

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to express my complete support to the 2009 budget proposal for the *Center for Information Technology Research (CITR)* that you are currently reviewing. I know that I am not alone among the junior faculty who, by working with Prof. Dongarra and his wonderful group of professionals at CITR and the Innovative Computing Laboratory (ICL), have been able to successfully gear up their own independent research program. The mentoring of junior faculty is a subject frequently discussed in academia, but I do not know of any other research group which has have been organized to incubate young researchers to the degree that CITR has.

Of course I continue to collaborate with CITR and ICL; with their support, I expect my own research program will continue expand, even in these difficult times for research funding. For example, under the help of Prof. Dongarra, I just won a \$340K NSF award to support my three-year research as the PI. But more than that, I believe that CITR and ICL provide a vital magnet and a conduit for the kind of new research talent that I know will be required for UTK to continue to thrive in this area. Your support for CITR's base funding is essential to sustain the momentum we have achieved, so I appreciate your careful consideration of the merits of their case.

Sincerely,



Shaun (Yuanshun) Dai
Assistant Professor,
Dept of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science,
Dept of Industrial & Information Engineering
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Email: ydai1@utk.edu
URL: <http://www.ece.utk.edu/~ydai1/>