THE UNIVERSITY *of* TENNESSEE

College of Engineering

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
414 Ferris Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
Phone: 865-974-3461
Fax: 865-974-5483
http://www.eecs.utk.edu

January 27, 2009

Dear ORU Review Committee,

As a faculty member who has benefitted tremendously from working with Prof. Dongarra and the *Center for Information Technology Research (CITR)*, I welcome this chance to express my strong support for their 2009 funding proposal.

I joined UT faculty in 2001 as a fresh PhD graduate. In 2007 I was promoted as an Associate Professor with tenure. In the past 6 years, I have won more than $1.1 million in nationally competed funding for my own research group from NSF and DOE Office of Science. Among all organizations at UT, I owe the most gratitude to CITR for their immense role in fostering the growth of my professional career.

My first two successful NSF proposals as lead PI (bringing more than $300,000 to my own research and $730,000 to the University of Tennessee) were both mentored by CITR staff members, with one of the two proposals directly involving Drs. Dongarra and Beck as my co-PIs. In my subsequent research projects that did not directly involve Prof. Dongarra and his technical team, the CITR team continued their utmost generosity in sharing their knowledge and extensive experience regarding every aspect of the proposal development process. It is from CITR staff member such as Dr. Terry Moore that I learned my craft of proposal writing as well as how to be an effective principal investigator. Over the years, I have patterned my way of managing financial aspects of funded research after examples shared with me by CITR's Tracy Rafferty. Knowing that I am just one of the group of young researchers that have benefited much from the existence of CITR, I feel the already broad impact that CITR brings could only be further magnified years down the road.

There are many faculty with innovative research ideas at UTK, but few get the kind of mentoring that I got from CITR in how to translate those innovative ideas into proposals that can win in today's highly competitive research environment. The funding environment for computing research and Computational Science is still comparatively rich, and the number of young faculty looking for the kind of mentoring that CITR provides is growing. I urge you to give their request your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Jian Huang, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Phone: 865-974-4398; Email: huangj@cs.utk.edu