



April 10, 2006

Dr. Jack Dongarra
Innovative Computing Laboratory
Department of Computer Science
1122 Volunteer Blvd.
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, 37996-3450

Dear Jack:

I am pleased to offer my support for the proposed Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Computational Science (IGMCS). The complexity of today's scientific problems dictates an interdisciplinary approach be applied to solve those problems. The evolution of more and more powerful supercomputers has added another dimension to scientific problem solving and has made modeling and simulation of phenomena and the interactions and behaviors of substances more practical than ever before. Experimental and theoretical methods cannot escape the complementarity of computational methods; therefore, the leading scientists in the future will appreciate and understand computational methods and include them in their approaches.

As a university we are charged with training the future scientists, thus, it seems imperative that their training include all approaches required by modern scientific investigation, and your proposed IGMCS program allows us to achieve that goal. I wholeheartedly support your efforts to get the IGMCS program included in our curricular offerings and look forward to the time when all graduate training in science includes some exposure to the computational aspects of scientific investigation.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance as you continue to develop and implement programs in computational science here at the University of Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Clifton Woods
Vice Chancellor for Research