

April 6, 2006

Professor Jack Dongarra
Computer Science Department
University of Tennessee
1122 Volunteer Blvd.
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-3450

Dear Prof. Dongarra:

Computational Science Program at the University of Tennessee

It is my pleasure to support the proposal for a Computational Science degree program at the University of Tennessee. Computational simulation has become an essential tool for research and development as modern scientific research presents a challenge both in the complexity of the problem and the computational resources needed. Computational sciences represent a complementary partner to theory and experiment in addressing our nation's most challenging problems. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has as a goal to deliver the Leadership Computing Facility for the Department of Energy and the nation to provide the high-performance computing capability required by the scientific communities in addressing such areas as climate change, nanoscience, protein folding, and fusion simulation. Developing next-generation computational scientists who are thoroughly grounded in the application of capability computing to the most challenging scientific and engineering problems is critical to achieving our scientific goals. ORNL offers a number of potential student opportunities through such programs as the Research Alliance in Math and Science and the Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship. ORNL would welcome the prospects of having computational science majors readily in the pipeline to assist in delivering breakthrough science.

Please feel free to contact me by phone (865 574-6185) or by email (zachariat@ornl.gov) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Thomas Zacharia
Associate Laboratory Director
Computing and Computational Sciences

dln