

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
5747 SOUTH ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

Office of the Dean
David W. Oxtoby, Dean

(773) 702-7950
FAX (773) 702-7915

March 19, 2001

Dr. Nathaniel Pitts
National Science Foundation
Director, Office of Integrative Activities
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Dr. Pitts:

The University of Chicago is pleased to participate with Rice University and the partner institutions (the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of California-San Diego, the University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute, and the University of Houston) in submitting this proposal to the National Science Foundation for a new Science and Technology Center. At Chicago, the principal investigator will be Dr. Ian Foster. Our proposed effort is currently budgeted at \$1,391,998 over the five-year life of the project.

I strongly support this proposal and expect it to have a significant, positive impact both on computer science itself and on the broader set of scientific and engineering disciplines that use computational techniques. At Chicago, I foresee strong collaborative links developing, with benefits to all involved, between the proposed center and other academic departments, as well as with researchers at Argonne National Laboratory, operated by the University on behalf of the Department of Energy. In addition, I am excited by the potential for new approaches to computer science education that may be enabled by harnessing the diverse talents and physical resources within this geographically distributed center.

The University of Chicago agrees with the underlying goals of the NSF STC program and will provide support over the life of the project, with commitments that match the goals of our institution to those of the NSF in general and to this proposed project in particular. We intend to encourage participation by both undergraduates and graduates by providing a total of \$417,600 towards graduate student tuition, P.I. time and effort, and seed funding for special project requirements.

While some of these commitments represent new efforts at The University of Chicago, it is important to note that we have a demonstrated history of supporting progress in the computational sciences, in improving the diversity of student participation, in increasing the participation of American students, and in providing space and facilities to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration in research and education. Work on computational science has been enhanced in several academic departments by a very successful University of Chicago/Argonne National Laboratory collaborative grants program. Interdisciplinary work is encouraged through interdisciplinary research

institutes and degree-granting "Committees"; a Committee on Computational Science is currently being formed.

We are confident that this project will be a successful Science and Technology Center. The problem to be addressed is of major importance to both computer science and science and engineering in general. The collaborators are all outstanding individuals with proven leadership skills. We look forward to working together as a partner in this important effort.

Yours sincerely,

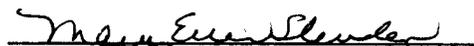


David W. Oxtoby

hcp

cc: Stuart Kurtz
Gilda Reyes

Institutional Endorsement:



Mary Ellen Sheridan, Ph.D.
Assoc. VP for Research