CENTER FOR COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES AND ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED SIMULATION
http://www.uhd.edu/ccsds
A unit of the
Advanced Distributed Simulation Research Consortium
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Professor Ken Kennedy
Rice University, MS-41
6100 Main Street
Houston, TX 77005-1892 USA

October 15, 2001

Dear Ken,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of your CGrADS proposal. The University of Houston-Downtown and the Center for Computational Science and Advanced Distributed Simulation (CCSDS) have a long and successful history of working together on numerous projects with tremendous impact, and I look forward to this additional opportunity for us to continue this collaboration. We wish to note that our CCSDS received much motivation and inspiration in its development and initiation from your Center for Research in Parallel Computation.

As you know, in 1995, institutions from the south-central United States met at the University of Houston-Downtown to form the South-Central Computational Science in Minority Institutions Consortium (SC-COSMIC). With support from the CRPC, SC-COSMIC members worked together to strengthen and reform K-16 math and science education and promote computational science education and research. SC-COSMIC members shared their unique resources and expertise in curricula reform, interactive learning, multimedia materials, remote databases, and supercomputing.

SC-COSMIC members included:

The University of Houston-Downtown
The University of Texas Pan American
The University of Texas-El Paso
Grambling State University
Prairie View A & M University
Southern University at New Orleans
Houston Community College
Aldine Independent School District

A culminating event of SC-COSMIC was the 1998 conference hosted by CRPC and the University of Houston-Downtown. During the SC-COSMIC conference, students, faculty, and others spoke on topics of interest to minorities in the computational sciences. Topics included (1) impact of anti-affirmative-action legislation, including the Hopwood decision; (2) the strengths and weaknesses of

minority and majority institutions; (3) easing transitions between minority situations (high school and undergraduate education) and majority situations (undergraduate education, graduate school, and the workplace); and (4) developing Masters and Ph.D. programs at minority institutions. Suggestions and solutions, documented in discussion groups that followed the talks, were developed and forwarded to government and academic officials. An intriguing aspect of this conference as with the other three SC-COSMIC conferences is the fact that it focused on student input for establishing the conference as well as organizing it.

We have begun discussions with Richard Tapia and Cynthia Lanius to jointly submit a proposal that would renew the SC-COSMIC coalition of schools, add additional partners such as the Houston Independent School District, University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southern University, and provide the necessary broad-scale, systematic network infrastructure to (1) support computer science education reform, (2) disseminate curricula advancing computer science reform, (3) disseminate interactive multimedia learning materials and advanced technologies to K-14 classrooms, and (4) provide services, technical assistance and connectivity among consortium institutions. If CGrADS is funded, we plan to pursue this initiative together.

Please let me know if there is anything else that I can do to support your CGrADS inititative. It has great potential to dramatically support computer science education at SC-COSMIC institutions, and I endorse this initiative with unqualified enthusiasm.

Thank you,

Richard A. Aló
Executive Director, CCSDS
Executive Director, Grants and Contracts, College of Science & Technology