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To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Support for a Software Skills Workshop for Women in Science and Engineering**

I am writing on behalf of Software Carpentry to ask to help us teach basic computing to female researchers in science and engineering. Our organization's aim is to give early-stage researchers (usually graduate students) the fundamental computing concepts and skills they need to write, test and manage research software. Our usual curriculum includes the Unix shell, version control, basic Python programming, testing, and debugging; our workshops are example-driven and alternate short tutorials with hands-on practical exercises.

In the past 15 months, we have run 60 such workshops with more than 1600 participants. We have usually recruited learners along regional or disciplinary lines, but would now like to target traditionally under-represented groups. In particular, after peaking at 37% in the mid-1980s, the number of women working in computing has steadily declined: less than 12% of computer science degrees were awarded to women in 2010-11. Separate figures for scientific computing aren't available, but our experience is that women are less likely to have the computing skills needed to do 21<sup>st</sup> Century science than their male counterparts, and we would like to do what we can to redress that.

Our current plan is to run a workshop in Boston in late June or early July 2013 with 6-8 female instructors and 120 female learners. Our instructors are all volunteers, but we require approximately \$6000 to cover their travel and accommodation costs. Contributions toward this can be made through NumFOCUS, a registered 501(c)3 charity; all donations will be acknowledged both online and at the workshop itself, and donors will be given the opportunity to present to participants. If you are interested in helping make this happen, please get in touch.

Thanks in advance for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory V. Wilson".

Dr. Gregory V. Wilson

Project Lead, Software Carpentry