



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

September 5, 2011

Mr. Josh Greenberg  
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation  
630 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2550  
New York, NY, USA, 10111

RE: *Letter of Support for Mozilla Foundation and Software Carpentry Proposal*

Mr. Greenberg:

Software Carpentry is an innovative and important initiative, and I am writing to express my strong, whole-hearted support for the proposal from the Mozilla Foundation and Software Carpentry to the Sloan Foundation.

As Dr. Greg Wilson's collaborator for the July 13 to 31, 2009 presentation of the Software Carpentry course, I saw first-hand the impact that the material can have on researchers in mathematics, engineering, and the natural sciences. As you may know, we were able to offer the course to students in both Toronto and Edmonton in 2009. Students learned techniques and tools that improve both the quantity and quality of their computational science. Notably, at least two of the Edmonton students paid the \$500 registration fee from their own pocket because of the perceived value of the course.

I would welcome any opportunity to continue working with Dr. Wilson, the Mozilla Foundation, and the Sloan Foundation on future developments. For example, I would be willing to host one or more of the two-day workshops, as there is clear interest from local graduate students. In the past 2 years, I have received regular queries as to when the course might be offered face-to-face again. And, although there are many details to be worked out, I would work with the Mozilla Foundation's Open Badging project to enact some form of recognition of a student's achievement with Software Carpentry.

Therefore, I strongly encourage the Sloan Foundation to fund Dr. Wilson's proposal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Lu".

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