



Dr. Ethan P. White
Department of Biology
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322

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

Dear Mr. Greenberg:

I am writing in support of the proposal by the Mozilla Foundation and Software Carpentry to improve the training of scientists in relation to computer programming and the web. Given the central nature of computational research and the internet to modern science it is critical that current and future scientists receive the necessary training to use these tools effectively. Proper training makes scientists more productive as individuals, more capable of working in teams with both other scientists and professional programmers, and allows them to consider tackling important problems that they would have otherwise thought intractable.

The proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of the challenges inherent in teaching good computational practice to scientists, and the proposed activities provide a major advance on the already valuable material provided by Software Carpentry. Given Mozilla's established leadership in credentialing and Software Carpentry's established record for training scientific programmers, I have every confidence that the outcomes of the proposed activities will have a major impact on the scientific enterprise.

I agree to collaborate with this new initiative by hosting two-day bootcamps at Utah State University, having personnel from my lab participate in both the bootcamps and online portions of this educational experience, and by working with the administration at Utah State University to provide formal recognition of the training received through these activities. Given the interest in programming short courses at Utah State I am confident that we would have at least 50 participants at each bootcamp.

I believe that supporting Mozilla and Software Carpentry in these efforts is one of the single most important things that can be done to generally improve the practice of science in the modern era. I look forward to helping them accomplish their goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ethan P. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ethan" being more prominent.

Dr. Ethan P. White