

# **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

January 27, 2014

Professor Rachel Slaybaugh  
Department of Nuclear Engineering  
UC Berkeley  
4173 Etcheverry Hall MC 1730  
Berkeley, CA 94720-1730

Dear Dr. Slaybaugh:

I am writing to commit to support, in the manner described below, our joint proposal "Assessing the Impact of Intensive Software Skills Training on Students' Scientific Careers". This proposal is to be submitted to the U.S. National Science Foundation program on Improving Undergraduate STEM Education PD 14-7513.

I am writing as a professor in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (MMG) and a Research Specialist with Michigan State University's Institute for Cyber-Enabled Research (iCER) that runs our High Performance Computing Cluster (HPCC). I am pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with you, Ms. Kaitlin Thaney, Dr. Lorena Barba, Dr. C. Titus Brown, Dr. Paul Wilson, Dr. Ethan White, Dr. Greg Wilson, and Dr. Kathryn Huff on working to improve computational training opportunities for undergraduates. I have worked with all collaborators as a Software Carpentry instructor and materials developer. I have been an instructor for two years, including being the lead instructor for the Boston Women in Science and Engineering workshop – a Software Carpentry workshop for 100 women in STEM. In my role with MMG and iCER, I regularly organize and teach computational and bioinformatics workshops for students, staff, and faculty. My position at MSU will enable me to work closely with project personnel to develop course materials and teach workshops. I also work with students across many departments and will be able to recruit broadly for students to participate in workshops and computational education opportunities.

The addition of the workshops outlined in this proposal will be a great benefit to the MSU undergraduate STEM community and those working with iCER and the HPCC resources. I look forward to the opportunity to develop and establish these workshops to promote computational literacy and enable undergraduate research. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Tracy K. Teal

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