

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 Wilson Boulevard
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR GEOSCIENCES

September 22, 2010

Dr. Bruce Watson
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Rensselaer polytechnic Institute
Troy, NY 12180-3590

Dear Dr. Watson: *Bruce*

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the EAR Instrumentation and Facilities (IF) program, which was held July 26-28, 2010. I am grateful for your committee's thorough and valuable analysis of the program.

I was delighted to learn that you concluded that these programs have been effective and efficient in providing both operational and strategic support to the full spectrum of research and educational endeavors supported by the EAR Division.

I am deeply appreciative of the time that very busy people like yourselves have committed to helping the NSF and the community, not only in providing a retrospective of performance by the EAR IF program over the past three years, but also in looking toward the future. You have provided many constructive comments on broad issues fundamental to the business operations of NSF and investment priorities required for the health of the EAR community's tools needed in research and education. Your suggestions regarding NSF cost-sharing policy and mid-sized infrastructure are especially helpful.

Once again, thank you for recognizing the quality of our staff and operations. We will continue to strive to maintain the tradition and challenge of close cooperation with the EAR community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim", written over a horizontal line.

Timothy Killeen
Assistant Director

Enclosure

Copy to: COV Members
Louise Kellogg, AC/GEO Chair