



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Washington, DC 20585

Office of the Director

August 7, 2009

Professor John C. Hemminger
Dean and Professor of Chemistry
School of Physical Sciences
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697

Dear Professor Hemminger:

Thank you very much for your continuing service as Chair of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC). I very much appreciate all of your efforts for our program, and I look forward to the ongoing and future activities of BESAC under your leadership. This year, I would like BESAC to take on the following charge:

Establish a subcommittee of BESAC to serve as a Committee of Visitors (COV) to examine the activities during the past three years of the Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists (WDTS) within the Office of Science. For the WDTS program, please assess (1) the efficacy and quality of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend, monitor, and document application, proposal, and award actions; and (2) the quality of the resulting portfolio, including its breadth and depth and its national and international standing.

The mission of the WDTS program is to help ensure that DOE and the Nation have a sustained pipeline of highly trained Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workers. We are entering a time of anticipated program growth, so this is a good time to evaluate the processes. The FY2010 budget request for WDTS is \$20.678M, double the FY08 appropriation of \$8.044M and nearly double the regular FY09 appropriation of \$13.583M. WDTS also received \$12.5M of Recovery Act funds in FY09 to begin a new graduate fellowship program. Since WDTS does not have a Federal Advisory Committee, I am asking BESAC to perform this review.

The WDTS program can be subdivided into student programs, educator programs, and a broad category that includes a number of other small efforts. Student programs include Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI), Community College Institute of Science and Learning (CCI), Pre-Service Teachers (PST), National Science Bowl, and Real World Design Challenge (RWDC). Educator programs include Academies Creating Teacher



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Scientists (ACTS), Faculty and Student Teams (FaST), and the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships. The other programs include, but are not limited, to the laboratory equipment donation program, evaluation studies, outreach, and workforce studies. Descriptions of these activities are provided in the FY2010 Office of Science budget request.

In addition to examining the existing WDTS programs over the past three years, I would like for you to evaluate the plans for the new graduate fellowship program, specifically the efficacy and quality of the processes to be used to solicit, review, recommend, monitor, and document application and award actions.

The COVs usually comment on program staffing needs, and I would especially like to encourage this COV to examine current and future staffing needs for the WDTS program.

The COV review should be conducted in accordance with the Guidance for DOE Office of Science Committee of Visitors Reviews, issued by the Deputy Director for Science Programs May 1, 2009.

I want to thank you and BESAC in advance for undertaking this important function for the Office of Science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. F. Brinkman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

W. F. Brinkman
Director