

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR GEOSCIENCES

September 30, 2014

Professor Karen M. Fischer
Department of Geological Sciences
Brown University
324 Brook Street
Providence, RI 02912

Dear Professor Fischer:

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Deep Earth Processes Section (DEP), which was held at the National Science Foundation from August 12-14, 2014. I sincerely appreciate your committee's thorough and valuable analysis.

I was delighted to learn that the COV was favorably impressed with the performance and dedication of the current Program Officers and administrative staff of the DEP. I am likewise happy with your conclusion that the proposal evaluation process of our DEP programs is sound, and carefully and meticulously administered by the Program Officers.

I am grateful for the time that busy people like yourselves have committed to helping NSF and the community, not only in providing retrospective of performance by the Geophysics, Tectonics, EarthScope, Petrology & Geochemistry, and Continental Dynamics programs over the past three years, but also in looking forward to 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 DEP disciplines. The challenges will indeed remain substantial for the DEP programs in the future, but the leadership in GEO is committed to addressing the key issues of funding cuts, large observational project support, and program officer workload that you have pointed out.

Once again, thank you for your helpful comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Roger Wakimoto'.

Roger Wakimoto
Assistant Director

Enclosure

Copy to: COV Members
George Hornberger, AC/GEO Chair