

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
FOR GEOSCIENCES

September 20, 2016

Dr. Roberta Marinelli  
Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies  
3454 Trousdale Pkwy, CAS 200  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0153

Dear Dr. Marinelli:

Thank you for serving as the Chair of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Arctic Section (ARC), which was held at the National Science Foundation from May 17 to 19, 2016. I sincerely appreciate the 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 leadership of the ARC. I am likewise happy with your recognition of our very high standard of peer review and efforts to ensure the integrity of the decision-making process.

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 Arctic Natural Science, Arctic Observing Network, Arctic Research Support and Logistics, Arctic Social Sciences, and Arctic Systems Sciences 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. The challenges will indeed remain substantial for the ARC programs in the future, but the leadership in GEO is committed to addressing the key issues that you have pointed out.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Wakimoto". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Roger Wakimoto  
Assistant Director

Enclosure

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