



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

September 11, 2018

**Office of the Assistant Director
Directorate for Geosciences**

Captain Tim Schnoor, USN, Retired
Code 321 RF, Room 1012
875 North Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Dear Captain Schnoor:

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Integrative Programs Section of the Ocean Sciences Division which was held on June 5 - 7, 2018. Both the COV report and the NSF response will be presented to the NSF Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC-GEO) at their October 2018 meeting. Once approved by AC-GEO, the report and response will be public.

I sincerely appreciate the time and energy that you and each member of the COV dedicated to this process. NSF and the ocean sciences community will benefit greatly from your thorough and thoughtful analysis of the Integrative Programs Section (IPS). I was pleased to hear the COV concluded that IPS programs are well managed, and I am particularly appreciative of the constructive suggestions for improvements. Your insights and recommendations will help us balance the near-term and long-range strategic and management objectives of the Directorate for Geosciences.

I recognize that the COV's contributions went far beyond the three days of face-to-face meetings. The many hours of advance work, reviewing portfolios of IPS awards and declinations and other pertinent background information were clear from the informed discussion and insightful questions raised on-site. We owe you and all of the members many thanks for mastering the Foundation's electronic business processes and reviewing the many documents in the weeks leading up to the COV meeting.

Bob Houtman, Section Head for the Integrative Program Section, has provided a specific set of responses to your findings and recommendations in the enclosed document. Thank you again for your contribution to maintaining the tradition of close cooperation between NSF and the ocean sciences community through a process of periodic outside review by a COV.

Sincerely,

William E. Easterling
Assistant Director

Cc: AC-GEO Chair
COV Members