

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD • ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

SEP 15 2006

Dr. Anthony F. Michaels
President, National Association of Marine Labs.
Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
P.O. Box 5069
Avalon, CA 90704

Dr. Jan Hodder
President, Organization of Biological Field Stations
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 5389
Charleston, OR 97420-1210

Dear Dr. Michaels and Dr. Hodder:

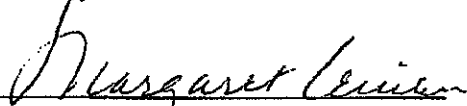
The Directorates for Geosciences and Biological Sciences, and the Office of Cyberinfrastructure appreciate your concern for the welfare of the Nation's environmental research and education enterprise, and your support of NSF's broad science mission. We are aware of the significant contribution of your members to the environmental sciences, and agree with you about the importance of maintaining the health of academic marine laboratories and biological field stations. We also very much appreciate your members' efforts to increase public awareness of the research and education that NSF supports.

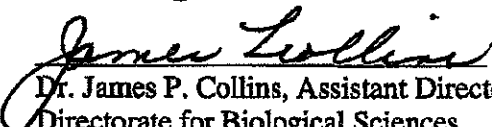
We know that your members have been successfully involved in several major initiatives at NSF, including Biocomplexity and ITR, and hope that they will continue to participate in related NSF competitions as they emerge in the next several years. We also hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to read and comment on the most recent NSF Cyberinfrastructure Vision document (http://www.nsf.gov/od/oci/ci_v5.pdf). As a part of that plan addresses virtual collaboratories likely to involve research at marine labs and field stations, it is very important that your voices be heard. Please encourage your members to provide input.


In addition to the opportunity provided through the Field Stations and Marine Laboratories program, NSF has and continues to provide other opportunities for support of the development of physical, human and cyber infrastructure within the environmental science community. Examples of ongoing NSF activities include the Major Research Instrumentation, REU Sites, Biological Databases & Informatics, and Geoinformatics programs. Other significant efforts include the Cyberinfrastructure for Environmental Observatories: Prototypes (CEOP), and several major environmental observatories to be supported through the NSF Major Research Equipment & Facility Construction account. The Directorates for Geosciences and Biological Sciences and the Office of Cyberinfrastructure participate in these activities and, although none is directed solely

at support for field stations and marine laboratories, we hope that your community will take advantage of these and other relevant opportunities. The support of infrastructure to facilitate environmental research and education remains a priority for NSF, and we anticipate that there will continue to be new opportunities of interest to the marine lab and field station research communities.

Sincerely,


Dr. Margaret S. Leinen, Assistant Director
Directorate for Geosciences


Dr. James P. Collins, Assistant Director
Directorate for Biological Sciences


Dr. Daniel Atkins, Director
Office of Cyberinfrastructure