



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 16 2014

David T. Allen, Ph.D.
Chairman
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
200 E. Dean Keeton Street
Stop C0400
Austin, Texas 78712

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you for your concern and continued interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science to Achieve Results Graduate Fellowship program.

As you know, it is the only federal fellowship program designed exclusively for students pursuing advanced degrees in the environmental sciences. The EPA's STAR Fellowship Program, along with its Greater Research Opportunity Fellowships Program, help to ensure that the U.S. meets its current and projected human-resource needs in the environmental science, engineering and policy fields. The EPA continues to be committed to its fellowship programs that support this national goal.

Indeed, the EPA is proud of the programs' impacts in encouraging promising students to continue their education beyond the baccalaureate level, obtain advanced degrees in environmental disciplines and pursue careers in environmentally related fields. These programs continue to make an impact in the lives of environmental-science graduate and undergraduate students across the nation. The EPA has funded 1,681 STAR and 330 GRO fellowships since 1995. We are now supporting approximately 190 STAR and 72 GRO students conducting environmental research in 72 different topic areas.

The Obama Administration has placed a high priority on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, making significant commitments to improve the quality of STEM education at all levels. As part of this commitment, the FY 2014 President's Budget proposed a reorganization of multiple STEM programs across several federal agencies into three lead agencies: Department of Education, Smithsonian Institution and National Science Foundation. Therefore, the FY 2014 President's Budget Request did not include funding for the EPA's STAR and GRO fellowship programs. However, Congress later directed that funding be maintained for the two fellowship programs in FY 2014. As a result, the EPA plans to make 98 new STAR awards and 34 GRO awards by autumn this year.

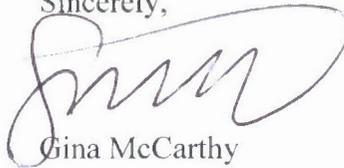
The President's Budget Request in FY 2015 again proposes the governmentwide STEM reorganization, which includes the EPA's STAR and GRO fellowship programs. The EPA plans to work with the National Science Foundation and others to provide professional-development opportunities for future National Science Foundation graduate fellows at the EPA's host sites. Additionally, the EPA is looking

¹<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/nstc/committees/costem>

to enhance its collaboration and coordination across agencies under the Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education (CoSTEM¹). For example, an EPA employee is currently on a part-time detail to the National Science Foundation to ensure the EPA's mission is incorporated into any new STEM reorganization effort.

I appreciate the Science Advisory Board's interest in the EPA's undergraduate and graduate fellowship programs and the important role these programs play in encouraging new generations of environmental scientists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Gina McCarthy

cc: Lek Kadeli
John Reeder
Robert Kavlock
James Johnson
Mary Hanley

¹<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/nstc/committees/costem>