

17 June 2013
National Science Foundation CAREER Program
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Program Representative:

On behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, I am very pleased to support Dr. Benita Franklin's application for the National Science Foundation CAREER Award. Dr. Franklin has proposed a comprehensive and innovative CAREER plan that will strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration while integrating research and educational activities that promote environmental conservation and sustainability.

Dr. Franklin is working in an exciting research area at the intersections of civil and environmental engineering, urban planning, public policy, landscape ecology, urban forestry, and architecture. Her research will integrate computational methods, policy and planning theory, and numerical analysis to produce results that will be critical to addressing sustainable policies for urban areas around the world. The methods and framework she will develop have the potential to transform the way urban planners and policymakers evaluate, predict, and design climate responsive strategies and programs that can achieve tangible and measurable targets. She is also a dedicated teacher working on innovative teaching methods and materials to broadly engage college students on the science of sustainable urban development. Her work with Girls, Inc. of Holyoke and the College of Natural Sciences has planted the seeds for long-term mentoring and educational experiences for minority girls from disadvantaged communities in Holyoke, MA.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is fully committed to providing Dr. Franklin with the support she needs to further develop her academic career. As a demonstration of the substantial funds, up to \$xxxx in institutional support, for the computational support required for her proposed research. In addition, the Department will provide Dr. Franklin with academic release time of 20% for nine months (one day per week) during each year of the project and one-and-a-half months of summer salary support during the first year of the project. This will allow Dr. Franklin to focus her efforts during this important time. The Department will also commit to providing \$xxxx per year (\$xxxx maximum) in travel funding for Dr. Franklin and her students and up to \$xxx per year for publication costs. Most importantly, the Department will provide mentoring support for Dr. Franklin through ongoing relationships with senior faculty.

I personally commit the Department to the support and professional development of Dr. Franklin. I verify that Dr. Franklin is eligible for the CAREER award; as of the date of this letter, Dr. Franklin holds a doctoral degree in Architecture, is untenured, has not previously submitted a CAREER proposal, and is employed in a tenure-track position at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Sincerely,