

Jack Nichols
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Redmond, WA 98052

Program Officer
Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program
National Science Foundation

Dear NSF Program Officer,

I have read the *Computer Science Access and Opportunity Initiative (CSAOI)* proposal from Kelvin Sung for the NSF S-STEM program regarding recruiting and engaging Game-Themed Computer Science (GTCS) scholars in Computer Science discipline. I'm writing today to express my support for this program and Dr. Sung.

I graduated from Computing and Software Systems Program (CSS) at the University of Washington Bothell (UWB) in 2004. The CSS program provided a concrete technical preparation for me in my career. Since graduating from the program, I went on to be a leading engineer at a software consulting company, started two companies, and joined Microsoft to work on numerous products. Today, I work on Microsoft's OneDrive client, which is an extremely complex piece of software that requires substantial knowledge of a variety of problem domains in computing.

I get a great deal of satisfaction out of what I do for a living, because it is challenging, rewarding, and my education has allowed me to excel at it. As a professional software engineer, I appreciate firsthand how a steady career in the high technology industry can greatly contribute to society and at the same time provide a comfortable and fulfilling lifestyle for me and my family.

Dr. Sung's CSAOI program will make a concrete difference in the industry. We face a massive shortage in qualified engineers for our projects, both here at Microsoft and industry-wide. The CSAOI program and CSS will help by producing engineers that are exceedingly well-qualified to succeed in this industry.

I am excited by Professor Sung's CSAOI proposal and I am committed to support this project serving as an industry mentor. In my mentorship role, I will:

- Meet with a GTCS scholar once or twice each year to learn about the student, and to share with the student my personal and professional experience at CSS and at my current job.
- Participate as a panelist at CSS answering students' questions regarding my job, career, and experience as a CS major student.
- Host GTCS scholars at my workplace giving them a guided tour and description of my job.
- Work with Microsoft Recruiting to explore internship opportunities for the GTCS scholars.

I look forward to helping Dr. Sung prepare the next generation of students for careers in computing.

Sincerely,



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