

Alfred University

December 18, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support and commitment for the Cornell Laboratory for Accelerator-based Sciences and Education to upgrade the Cornell Electron-Positron Storage Ring (CESR) to the CESR Damping Ring Test Accelerator (CESR-TA).


Since receiving my PhD from Stanford University in 1996, I have been associated with the Cornell Laboratory for Accelerator-based Sciences and Education (CLASSE) in two different capacities, first as a research associate at CLASSE, and presently as an Associate Professor of Physics at Alfred University. It has been my experience, in both capacities, that the faculty and staff at CLASSE are outstanding in the field of accelerator physics.

In 2004, I was awarded a National Science Foundation CARRER grant entitled "Remote Operation of a Synchrotron Radiation Beam Dynamics Laboratory," which enables me to direct Alfred University undergraduate research projects in accelerator physics, by remote operation of a beam dynamics laboratory, on CESR. This has allowed me to expose undergraduate students to accelerator physics research; an opportunity not available at most undergraduate institutions. Since 2004, eight undergraduate students have worked on this project; three have written honors theses in accelerator physics. In addition, several conference papers have been published in conjunction with the accelerator physics research on CESR.

My research interest is in accelerator beam diagnostics operated remotely at Alfred University. Presently, I have been participating in the development of a photomultiplier-based device to measure the vertical beam size of multiple bunches in CESR on a turn-by-turn basis. Two devices have been installed in CESR, one for electrons and one for positrons, to study vertical beam dynamics, such as the electron cloud instability, that are important for the CESR-TA. Over the next five years I am fully committed to continuing my participation on research and development of turn-by-turn multiple bunch transverse and longitudinal beam diagnostics for the CESR-TA.

I look forward to working with the faculty and staff at CLASSE on the CESR-TA.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Holtzapple
Associate Professor of Physics