National Center for Supercomputing Applications
1008 NCSA Building
1205 West Clark Street
Urbana, IL 61801

June 22, 2013

To: John Towns
            PI and Project Director, XSEDE

Re: Letter of Intent to join the XSEDE Federation

Dear John,

The Blue Waters Project at NCSA/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign wishes to participate in the XSEDE Federation and SP Forum as a Level 2 Service Provider (SP). The Blue Waters project has and continues to reach the XSEDE community in multiple ways. Examples of this include, serving some of the same science teams, using some of the same software, infrastructure tools and workshops. Most recently, Blue Waters and XSEDE hosted the 6th annual Extreme Scaling Workshop July 15-16, 2012 – Chicago, Illinois is and actively planning the 7th workshop in August 2013. For the past four (4) years, Blue Waters initiated and provided significant support in The Virtual School of Computational Science and Engineering (VSCSE), which helps graduate students, post-docs and young professionals from all disciplines and institutions across the country gain the skills they need to use advanced computational resources to advance their research.

Additionally, the Blue Waters Project currently makes use of several XSEDE tools and services. Just two examples are the Blue Waters testing team is using the Inca verification and validation tool to manage system tests; and similar to the XSEDE community, Blue Waters is using Globus Online for data movement.   Finally, the Blue Waters support staff and members of the XSEDE support staff are actively exchanging trouble ticket data in an effort to better understand and respond to user issues.

There are several benefits of having the Blue Waters project in the XSEDE Federation as a Level 2 Service Provider. One of the most significant benefits is the visibility and reach that the Blue Waters project has to the HPC community. Many of the users and potential users of Blue Waters are or have been users of XSEDE computing resources. By continuing to offer joint workshops, using the same tools and services, the Blue Waters project and XSEDE simultaneously reach their user groups and can effectively communicate relevant HPC topics and issues.

We have reviewed the XD Service Providers Forum: Charter, Membership, and Governance document (version 10.1, dated 2 February 2012, at: https://www.xsede.org/documents/10157/281380/SPF_Definition_v10.1_120228.pdf, defining the mutual responsibilities of XSEDE and an SP and are confident that we can and will fulfill our obligations as described therein.

Blue Waters commits to work with you and XSEDE to enhance the state of large scale computation and data analytics. The Blue Waters project team members look forward to working with XSEDE to expand the impact of the science and engineering investigations both our projects support and to advance the mission of XSEDE and the NSF in advancing the nation's research capability.

Sincerely,

Bill

Dr. William T. C. Kramer
Director and Principle Investigator of Blue Waters
National Center for Supercomputing Applications
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign