

May 6, 2006

Dr. Garth Illingworth
Chair, AAAC
Dr. Mel Shochet
Chair, HEPAP

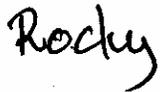
Dear Garth,
Dear Mel,

On behalf of the Dark Energy Task Force, I am pleased to transmit to you the report of the Dark Energy Task Force.

The report is a comprehensive study of the dark energy issue, perhaps the most compelling of all outstanding problems in physical science. In the Report, we outline the crucial need for a vigorous program to explore dark energy as fully as possible, since it challenges our understanding of fundamental physical laws and the nature of the cosmos. We recommend that program elements include

1. An immediate investment in projects that will improve our understanding of the dominant systematic effects in dark energy measurements and lead to their reduction.
2. An immediate start of a near-term program (which we call Stage III) designed to advance our knowledge of dark energy and prepare for the ultimate "Stage IV" program, which consists of a combination of large survey telescopes and/or a space mission.
3. Expanded support for design and development funds of proposed Stage IV projects. This will allow the relative benefits, risks, and costs of these projects to be much better known soon.
4. Rapid decisions on the appropriate Stage IV projects that will, as we outline in the report, lead to an order of magnitude increase in our knowledge of dark energy parameters.

Sincerely yours, on behalf of the Dark Energy Task Force,



Edward Kolb
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Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics
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