

California State University  
**Northridge**

Department of Physics and Astronomy  
College of Science and Mathematics

July 22, 2016

**To whom it may concern,**

It is my pleasure to invite Professor Yongtian Zhu to our department as a Visiting Scholar to perform associated tests and observations with an international collaboration project between California State University Northridge (CSUN) and Nanjing Institute of Astronomical Optics & Technology (NIAOT), Chinese Academy of Sciences, which was awarded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), in which Professor Yongtian Zhu is a primary investigator (PI) and I am a co-investigator (Co-I).

The international collaboration project is entitled as "Research on the critical techniques for the high-contrast imaging and the scientific observation of the exoplanets", awarded by NSFC recently (Grant No: 11220101001). Through this project, NSFC will provide the funding to CSUN at California to build a high-contrast coronagraph instrument, which will be tested initially at our CSUN laboratory, and then will be used for exoplanet imaging with the astronomical 3.5-meter telescope located at Apache Point Observatory (APO), New Mexico, USA.

This year, we will purchase the APO 3.5-meter telescope observation time, with the support of the above international collaboration project. The first observation is scheduled to carry out on December 10<sup>th</sup>~20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. As a PI for this collaboration project, Professor Yongtian Zhu will involve in the above activities. I therefore invited him to visit CSUN to join us for the observation with the APO telescope. This will be a multiple-visit, each with a couple of weeks, in one-year duration. The start day for Professor Zhu's first visit to APO will be on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, and all the cost will be paid by this project being supported by the NSFC.

Should you have any question, please feel free to contact me. Your considerations and assistances are highly appreciated.

Best Regards!

Deqing Ren



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