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December 2, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I write in my capacity as Director of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey IV (SDSS-IV) to express our interest in continuing the SDSS Catalog Archive Server mirror site at the Laboratório Interinstitucional de e-Astronomia (LineA).

SDSS-IV is a multi-national project that began its technical development in 2012, and plans to operate at the Apache Point Observatory and Las Campanas Observatory from July 2014 to June 2020. SDSS-IV is composed of three surveys: APOGEE-2, MaNGA and eBOSS. The extended Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (eBOSS) has the goal of mapping the Universe to measure the expansion history of the Universe throughout the last 11 billion years. MaNGA is a survey in spatially resolved spectroscopy of 10,000 nearby galaxies, to study their structure and history. APOGEE-2 is a high-resolution spectroscopic survey of the Milky Way galaxy to understand its detailed evolution.

LineA has provided an important service through its mirror of the SDSS-III Catalog Archive Server, allowing local access to the data to the Brazilian astronomical community as well as a back-up site for the project. We hope to continue this fruitful collaboration during SDSS-IV as well, as part of the contributions made towards SDSS-IV project participation by members of LineA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Blanton".

Michael R. Blanton  
Associate Professor, New York University  
Director, Sloan Digital Sky Survey IV