

**From:** [Moody, Dustin \(Fed\)](#)  
**To:** [Chen, Lily \(Fed\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FYI  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 10:08:50 AM

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(I texted him congrats already)

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**From:** Chen, Lily (Fed) <lily.chen@nist.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 10:07 AM  
**To:** Apon, Daniel C. (Fed) <daniel.apon@nist.gov>  
**Cc:** Moody, Dustin (Fed) <dustin.moody@nist.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FYI

Hi, Daniel,

Thank you for letting us know. We understand your decision even though we hate to see you leave us. We have very much enjoyed working with you. Best wishes for a successful career.

Lily


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**From:** "Apon, Daniel C. (Fed)" <daniel.apon@nist.gov>  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 11:36 PM  
**To:** Lily Chen <lily.chen@nist.gov>  
**Cc:** Dustin Moody <dustin.moody@nist.gov>  
**Subject:** FYI

Hi Lily and Dustin,

I've verbally accepted a job offer as Cryptography Lead at MITRE, tentatively beginning on January 10, 2022 (but flexible, depending on the PQC 3rd Round timing).  
I will be running their PQC transition.

(b) (6)

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My plan is to complete work on the 3rd Round of the PQC project, and then move over.

This has been a very personally demanding decision process for me. I remain very passionate for the work happening at NIST, and have extremely enjoyed all of the wonderful relationships I've built up over the past few years with both of you two and my other colleagues here at NIST.

Since MITRE is an FFRDC, I cannot jointly hold positions in the federal government and at MITRE. However, I am also seeking an Adjunct Professor position at UMD (if possible -- or

perhaps another local university) so that I can continue public research work simultaneously. In the best case, I will still be able to directly interact with Gorjan, Carl, and Yi-Kai as colleagues at UMD! I will, of course, always be happy to be available as an external expert on any technical matters if the NIST Crypto team wants to consult with me.

Over the next four months, I plan to continue providing my best technical advice on whatever issues arise, continue mentoring Jacob Lichtinger through the end of his 1-year Pathways project, and so on. I remain 100% committed to the NIST mission of being scientifically accurate, and remain very passionate about the PQC project.

I can't thank you enough for the opportunity to work here over the past few years. If it were up to me, I'd prefer to work in the NIST environment with a matching pay offer, but I also understand what that is not possible.

Please let me know if you'd like to chat about any of this, or let me know what processes should happen over the end of the year.

Best,

--Daniel