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March 31, 2010

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Dr. Neal Smatresk
Office of the President
Box 451001
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1001

Dr Neal Smtresk;

I have been a member of the Advisory Board for the School of Informatics for approximately 18 months. It's usual for me to be involved in our community, encouraging and frequently enabling young professionals to focus their education to further their career objectives. I also participate on the UNLV MIS Advisory Board and formerly on the Desert Pines Magnet School Advisory Council with the same intent.

The industry's most recent experience has been a decrease in young folks pursuing the I.T. discipline. We increasingly struggle with fewer candidates available to fill essential positions in Development, Communications, Security and Program Management. We have continually instituted mentoring/intern programs for high school students to cultivate interest and encourage them to further their education in I.T.

UNLV's MIS programs are important to support our obligation to provide business solutions to both our internal and external "communities".

The School of Informatics is uniquely architected to accomplish this objective for both the private and the public sectors. It specifically aligns technical disciplines with real word business needs:

- Informatics Benefits the Students by being relevant to future job trends
- Informatics Benefits the Community by providing skilled graduates in high-demand fields
- Informatics Benefits the University by being a High-Demand, Revenue-Positive Academic Program

I understand fully the State's economic condition. I've been faced with recent reductions in budget, programs and skilled staff myself. We have been desperately trying to ensure the viability of this City through innovative technological and strategic initiatives. Our intent is to assist our limited citywide staff with alternatives and efficiencies to continue the support of public programs.

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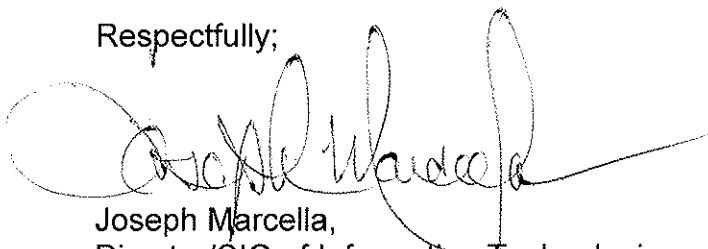
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We have had to surgically carve out and align the best and the brightest to ensure continuity in compliance with our charter. We have had to reduce our workforce and skills inventory by over twenty-five percent. Many of which are folks that will be retiring and no longer a resource we can consider.

The industry will need trained professionals in the next few years to fill this gap. I am sure you are aware that the future of our community is dependent on attracting diverse businesses. They will require a tax friendly environment, tier one communications, an educated work force and the ability to train employees on a continuous basis. The absence of any one of these components would be a significant barrier to the most appropriate suitors.

Please consider that the architects of the School of Informatics recognized this need and designed the curriculum to fill the void. I respectfully request that you reconsider the recommendation to discontinue this program. It will definitely handicap a community that is actually ready for the next generation of business and services. Technology and the supporting workforce are key to the success of a growing and vibrant community and especially to its recovery.

Respectfully;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Marcella", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph Marcella,
Director/CIO of Information Technologies
City of Las Vegas