April 2, 2010

Dr Neal Smatresk
Office of the President
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154

Dear Dr Smatresk,

For the past 6 years I have served as Advisory Board Chair, UNLV School of Informatics. It has come to my attention that the School of Informatics is being considered for elimination. I strongly support the School and the Informatics Curriculum and recommend the potential eliminate of this program be reconsidered.

- Informatics was created in direct response from Information Technology Executives in Las Vegas for degree programs more relevant to the local employment needs. It is a true academic partnership between the University and the Industries that support thousands of IT jobs in Nevada.
- The Informatics curriculum was developed in cooperation with leading IT employers in Government, Gaming, Hospitality, and manufacturing. The Informatics Curriculum Committee consisted of Executives and senior managers from the local IT community.
- The program was modeled after Informatics at Indiana University, The University of Michigan, and The University of California-Irvine where similar programs have proven very successful. The Advisory Board met with consultants from these Universities to help define the curriculum.
- The UNLV School of Informatics created an innovative new thrust in the area of computing and applications of information technology. This has provided a unique opportunity to emphasize the integration of the study of people, information, and technology in a multi-disciplinary program of studies that will directly benefit Las Vegas and the State.
- There are several Internship opportunities that have been created to provide students with seamless integration into the local workforce.
- Even though the School of Informatics has been in existence for only a few years, it has shown increased enrollment and zero dropouts since its inception.

In summary, the UNLV School of Informatics is the right academic program for the computing and IT labor force in Nevada. I realize the economy of the State and University face challenges. The UNLV School of Informatics was created with the

economy of Nevada in mind. I hope you will take every opportunity to support this program.

Sincerely yours,

Marshall Andrew

Chair - Advisory Board, UNLV School of Informatics
Chief Information Officer, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas