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

Dear Mr. Smatresk,

I would like to express our continued support of the School of Informatics program at the University of Las Vegas.

Many Chief Technology Officers of major Las Vegas based companies, such as ours, have come together to help develop a curriculum for students that will assist them in being immediately ready to fill positions within our company. While the unemployment rate in Las Vegas is higher than the national average, we are still not able to find qualified candidates with specific technical knowledge helpful in our industry. With graduates coming through the Informatics program, we are creating excitement and passion for a new mixture of technology knowledge and how that applies to various industries in our region. It is of utmost importance that our community continues to support this program for the future success of companies with unique hiring needs such as ours.

With companies like Bally assisting and taking ownership of the students by using them as interns, and helping to develop the curriculum, we believe this paves the path of success for all involved. With an employee base of almost 1000 here in Las Vegas, Bally has committed to hiring 2-3 interns from the Informatics program this year and believe other companies will do the same. We also intend to source several full time positions from the program each year into the Bally IS/IT departments.

We understand the tight economic situation that we are all experiencing currently and believe that cutting the Informatics program is not the solution that is best suited for UNLV or Las Vegas companies in need of these highly-skilled graduates.

We ask you to continue to fund the Informatics program at UNLV and feel free to contact either of us directly should you have any further questions or require any additional comments on our support of this program.

Sincerely,

Ramesh Srinivasan   Gary Kapral
Executive Vice President, Systems   Senior Vice President, Human Resources
Bally Technologies, Inc.   Bally Technologies, Inc.