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Lenora Peters Grant, Ph.D.
Senior Executive for Academic Outreach & STEM/NGA

February 24, 2015

Dear Dr. Grant,

The University of Maine is delighted to submit an application for consideration as a NGA/USGA Center of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences. The geospatial sciences have a long and impressive tradition at the University of Maine with early work in land information systems going back to the 1980s. With the NSF award of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis to the 3-site Consortium of UC Santa Barbara, the State University of New York at Buffalo, and the University of Maine in 1988, Orono became a hub for research and education in geographic information systems. Also as a founding member of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, formed in 1995, the University of Maine continued its leadership role in the academic community.

Today, the University of Maine draws on excellence in the geospatial sciences in a broad range of academic units and research centers. The major emphasis is on graduate education, where we excel in the fundamental field of geographic information science and the applied domains that use geographic information systems.

In addition to the existing Master's and PhD programs that relate to GIScience and GIS, we are in the process of establishing a new professional Master's degree in Spatial Informatics, which will be offered completely by distance. We expect approval by the Board of Trustees for this new enterprise later this year.

We look forward to hearing from you about your evaluation of the University of Maine's application for designation as a NGA/USGS Center of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Science.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEFF E. HECKER'.

Jeffrey E. Hecker
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost