

LEOMA

123 Kent Road
Pacifica CA 94044
650 738-1492
650 738-1769 FAX
Mail@LEOMA.com

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October 15, 2001

Mr. Daniel M. Hull
CORD
601 Lake Air Drive
Waco, TX 76710

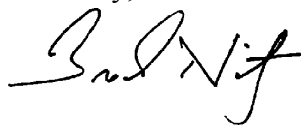
Dear Mr. Hull:

This letter is in support of your continuing work to develop a revised skills standard and curriculum for photonics training. The U.S. photonics industry has experienced debilitating shortages of trained engineers and technicians in recent years, and projects such as your photonics curriculum development will help alleviate that shortage in the future.

As you know, LEOMA is supporting the Laser Optics program at Yuba College in Marysville, California. The National Science Foundation has recently awarded a "planning grant" to Yuba to allow them to prepare a proposal for expanding the existing Laser Optics curriculum through a competency-based curriculum development process. Needless to say, we are expecting to utilize many elements of the CORD curriculum in the Yuba program.

Your new curriculum, and the model for articulation both with local high schools and four-year colleges, will also be invaluable in redesigning the Laser Technology program at San José City College. We have a consortium of four local companies that have donated an entire laboratory to that school, and are actively participating in the curriculum design. I envision the final curriculum being an industry-selected set of modules from the CORD program.

Sincerely,



C. Breck Hitz
Executive Director