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Office of the Dean

October 18, 2001

Mr. Daniel M. Hull
President
Principal Investigator for STEP II
CORD
601 Lake Air Drive
Waco, TX 76710

Dear Mr. Hull:

Three Rivers Community College is pleased to endorse CORD's proposal Science and Technological Education in Photonics ("STEP II") that is being submitted to the National Science Foundation. I also support Professor Judy Donnelly's participation as a member of the Educational Working Group for the proposed STEP II project and the participation of Three Rivers as a beta test site for materials produced by the project.

As you are aware, Three Rivers Community College has been a leader in the field of laser electro-optics in the Connecticut Community College system. We offer the only associate degree in photonics technology in our state, and the only accredited fiber optics certificate offered through distance learning in the Northeast, if not the nation. Professor Donnelly has been a leader in the field of photonics education, attending numerous professional development activities as well as presenting at workshops and conferences herself. She is the Principle Investigator of the NSF-ATE funded PHOTON project for teacher enhancement, curriculum development and lab improvement in photonics.

Connecticut is positioned in the midst of the growing photonics industry and Three Rivers Community College is committed to preparing workers for existing and newly developing positions. We have partnered successfully with the Northeast Center for Telecommunications Technology at Springfield Technical Community College and with the New England Board of Higher Education on projects in telecommunications and photonics education, and we look forward to expanding our efforts. The STEP II proposal has my endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul A. Susen, Ph.D.".

Paul A. Susen, Ph.D.
Academic Dean