

October 12, 2001

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



Dear Mr. Hull:

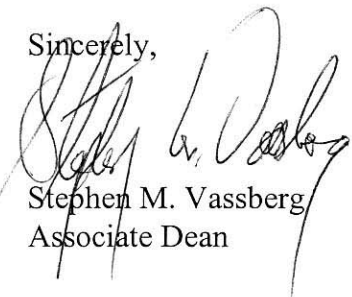
TSTC Harlingen will support the CORD Science and Technological Education in Photonics (STEP) II project by contributing the resources and experience of our faculty, and by piloting the Fundamentals of Photonics materials in the classroom and laboratory setting. Our past experiences with CORD have been very beneficial to the College and our students and we look forward to working with CORD on proposed project.

The 18% enrollment growth at TSTC Harlingen this fall semester presents new challenges and opportunities. TSTC is a Hispanic Serving Institution (87%) located in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas offering over 30 technical career programs. The possibility of using new instructional materials in optics, especially being a part of the pilot testing of those materials, will be of great interest to those universities with whom we articulate.

As a participating pilot site for the CORD project, TSTC Harlingen faculty will pilot the revised photonics modules and newly developed modules in the second and third year of the project. TSTC faculty will participate in professional development opportunities, and will provide instructor evaluations and student performance data. TSTC will also assist the project by dissemination of materials, recruitment of other pilot institutions, and will provide technical expertise to the project course developers. Advisory committee comments on the materials will be shared with the project.

TSTC is prepared to not only pilot the project materials, but to also serve as a training site for faculty in the use of the CORD developed modules.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Vassberg
Associate Dean