



College of Engineering

University of Missouri-Columbia

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July 12, 2007

Ms. Christine Nickell, I02E
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road, SAB 3, Suite 6744
Fort Meade, MD 20755-6744

SUBJECT: IA Faculty and Teaching Workloads

Dear Ms. Nickell:

This letter is written to address Criteria 10 for the Center of Excellence application being submitted by the University of Missouri, Columbia (UMC).

Based upon Criteria 10, Associated Professor Wenjun Zeng and Assistant Professor William Harrison, of the Computer Science (CS) Department, are full-time information assurance (IA) faculty with responsibility for the IA instructional program.

The College of Engineering Information Technology (IT) program is providing instruction relevant to the NSA Center of Excellence. The IT program within the CS Department was launched in 2005 with a gift from AT&T/SBC. It has three focus areas/tracks: Information Systems, Networking, and Media/Entertainment. By the end of the second year, the IT program had grown to over 110 students. The program has proven attractive to students because of its distinguished faculty and state-of-the-art facilities that greatly exceed what is available at competing institutions.

This spring the IT program received certification from the National Security Agency (NSA) for its Information Assurance courseware. This Information Assurance Courseware Evaluation (IACE) Program implements a process to systematically assess the degree to which the courseware from commercial, government, and academic sources maps to the national standards set by the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS). This certification is expected to greatly enhance student recruitment for our new Cyber Security track.

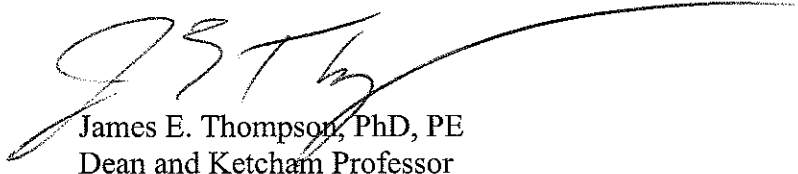
Also relevant to UMC's NSA Center application is the Cyber Security Research Center being formed in the CS Department. This proposed center will address various challenging problems in cyber security, including information assurance, secure and forensic multimedia, home network and sensor network security, reliability and survivability of large-scale distributed information systems, secure tele-health, e-publishing, and e-learning, application and software

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security, curriculum on trustworthy computing, etc. This center will greatly enhance the cyber-security capacities at our university.

In summary, the College of Engineering strongly supports the application for an NSA Center of Excellence with two full-time faculty in IA and relevant IT courses and curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. E. Thompson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

James E. Thompson, PhD, PE
Dean and Ketcham Professor