

Department of Municipal Development
Melissa Lozoya, Acting Director



Richard J. Berry, Mayor

21 July 2016

New Mexico State University
College of Engineering
Dean Lakshmi N. Reddi
Goddard Hall Room 202
1100 South Horseshoe
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

Re: Support of NMSU Surveying Engineering Program

Dear Dean Reddi:

I am writing to show support for the survey program at New Mexico State University. The City of Albuquerque requires the services of surveyors on a daily basis. At this time, we have one graduate from your program, and employ three full-time surveyors in our Construction Services Division, Survey Section — and are in fact seeking another licensed surveyor for our department at this time.

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In our efforts to employ the requisite staff to meet our needs, the City of Albuquerque has experienced a shortage of qualified licensed surveyors in the applicant pool. The loss of the Surveying Program at NMSU would, in my opinion, seriously impact our ability to quickly hire local people to fill these positions, a difficulty that will only worsen as the existing personnel base retires or moves on. This impact would occur at a time when the City and other organizations throughout the state are trying to prevent the "brain drain" that New Mexico has so long suffered from — the loss of its young people to institutions outside the state. With the loss of the program at NMSU it would be even more difficult to hire new graduates to mentor for moving up through our ranks.

Education is the key to professional development, in our experience, and gives our surveyors the solid foundation they need. We find that degreed college graduates possess a broad-based theoretical knowledge, rather than the bare-bones step-by-step understanding of non-degreed employees. This fundamental education gives college graduates a leg up on thinking through real-world situations with complex contingencies — because they are grounded in the "why" not just the "how." Given today's technology which allows more folks to perform surveying without knowing the fundamental principles behind it, experience alone is not enough.

If the survey program is shut down, the survey industry will be severely impacted, given the shortage of licensed New Mexico surveyors we are currently experiencing. Thus I implore you to continue the NMSU survey program, and encourage more students to enter the program.

Sincerely,



Bryan Wolfe, P.E.
Acting Deputy Director