



Flatirons, Inc.
Surveying, Engineering & Geomatics
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Dr. Lakshimi Reddi
Dean of the College of Engineering NMSU
Goddard Hall Room 202
1100 South Horseshoe
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

July 20, 2016

Dear Dr. Reddi:

I am the CEO of a land surveying and engineering firm in Colorado, with 78 employees in Boulder, Longmont and Denver. Eleven of those are professional land surveyors. I have been a PLS for over 40 years, a past president of the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado (PLSC), and the current editor of their quarterly magazine, *Side Shots*. I am a current Director for Colorado in the National Society of Professional Surveyors. I serve on the Education Committee of the PLSC with an important mission – to promote degree programs that are now a requirement for future licensure in Colorado.

Currently, Colorado has no educational institutions that provide a 2-year or 4-year degree in surveying. Apprenticeships and mentoring alone is no longer enough. That puts our younger surveyors seeking a professional career in a difficult situation, having to seek out degree programs in other states, either in residence or via distance learning. Those options are limited. The PLSC offers scholarships for such programs; if your department's budget is an issue, please know that state surveying societies have scholarship funds available for potential students.

I was informed by Amanda Allred of the NSPS that New Mexico State University may be discontinuing your surveying degree program at the end of this year. I have known many graduates of your program, and have known Dr. Kurt Wurm for many years. The loss of this option will be a serious setback for our desperate need for highly trained and licensed professional surveyors in the very near future, especially as our more senior PLS professionals are nearing retirement. There is no doubt that ending the NMSU surveying program will impact my business in a negative way, and reduce our ability to protect property rights and the public welfare.

I realize that many considerations go into the termination of a degree program. But I want to assure you that the need for such graduates extends beyond the borders of New Mexico. I have served as an evaluator of complaints for the AES Board, part of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) and a frequent remedy is to require additional education and training for the surveyor; there must be such training available.

I would, of course, prefer that your program find a way to continue, to serve our profession and provide the needed education for the next generation. If you would like to speak to me about this, I would welcome such a call. My direct line is (720) 221-2686.

Sincerely,

John B. Guyton, PLS
CEO, Flatirons Inc. Surveying & Engineering