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July 20, 2016

Dean Reddi
College of Engineering
New Mexico State University

Dear Dean Reddi,

As a 1995 graduate of the NMSU Surveying Engineering program, I am somewhat appalled to learn that the University is considering eliminating the program. While it is true that the number of graduates is small, that is mostly because the number of practicing surveyors is also small. It is not a reflection of the program, but rather of the profession as a whole. That does not mean that the profession is dying, there have never been a lot of surveyors compared to other engineers. But the few that are in practice are absolutely essential to the protection of the property rights of all of us. Surveyors, particularly land surveyors, are much more than just specialized engineers. Their practice is not only based upon accurate measurements, it is based upon the law and the rights of property owners. In fact, in surveying practice, the law always takes precedence over measurements. This is a concept that is often difficult for other engineers, but is essential for the public good. These concepts are often quite complex and difficult to learn in a workplace setting. That is why it is essential that programs like NMSU's Surveying Engineering program continue to provide this education. It is not always about the money, it is about the public welfare, and colleges and universities should be the first and last to stand up for this principle. If the Surveying Engineering program costs more to run than it makes for the University, then so be it. NMSU is a public university, and public universities exist to serve the public good, not to make a profit.

Sincerely;

Michael J. MacInnis
Registered Professional Land Surveyor
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