Spring 2017

XXX
Chief Academic Officer
Idaho State Board of Education
650 West State Street, Suite #307
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0037

Dear XXX:

The University of Idaho is writing to notify the Idaho State Board of Education of our intention, in coordination with North Idaho College, to expand our current offering of the third year UI Computer Science (CS) program in Coeur d’Alene to include the fourth year beginning summer of 2017. As you are aware, this year the UI began offering third year CS classes supported by a FY17 legislative appropriation. The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the UI plans to implement the next phase, namely the fourth and final year of the Bachelors of CS program contingent on the additional legislative appropriation being considered during this upcoming legislative session.

During and after the full program establishment, NIC will continue to offer the first two years and the UI will offer the final two years in Coeur d’Alene; the UI will continue to offer the full curriculum (all four years) on the Moscow campus. Computer science faculty from both institutions have been working together to ensure the curriculum between our two programs is in alignment. Students attending NIC can finish their associate’s degree and keep working towards their bachelor’s degree without leaving the area.

A bachelor’s degree program will be a tremendous advantage for place-bound students in northern Idaho and provide key support to growing businesses in the area. A unique characteristic of this program will be cooperative experiences that will make industry-sponsored internships a part of the educational process. This program offering will greatly enhance the economic development of the region, create a viable pathway from NIC to UI, and move Idaho closer to its Complete College Idaho goals. North Idaho is home to a flourishing technology community. Implementing the degree program in partnership with NIC in the Coeur d’Alene region will better serve local students passionate about the field and the community, allowing them to remain in the Coeur d’Alene vicinity while receiving a meaningful, relevant education that they can parlay into a well-paying job without leaving the state.

Sincerely,

John Wiencek
Provost and Executive Vice President

cc: Rick MacLennan, President, NIC, rick.maclennan@nic.edu
Lita Burns, Vice President for Instruction, NIC, maburns@nic.edu