February 27, 2015

Lenora Peters Gant, Ph.D.
Senior Executive for Academic Outreach & STEM
Centers of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences Program
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

Dear Dr. Gant:

I would like to convey to you my highest regard and support for the establishment of a NGA/USGS Center of Academic Excellence at the University of Utah. The Department of Geography will be the core of the Center as they have been involved in geospatial science for decades, have extensive instructional and research programs and coordinate with other College units for community outreach in this area.

The University of Utah and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences supported the establishment of Utah Board of Regents certificates programs in geographic information science and remote sensing, and a MS degree in geographic information science. We have endorsed and supported the implementation of the US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation’s certificate program through the Department of Geography. All of these programs are heavily subscribed by students from across campus and have become important instructional, research and community outreach assets for us meeting the needs of the Intermountain West and beyond.

I am confident the CAE will be a successful enterprise fostering cooperation between the University of Utah, your agency and other federal agencies into the future. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Berg
Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Science
Professor of Psychology