

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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December 4, 2012

The Honorable Don Nottoli, Chairman
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Suite 1450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Nottoli:

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors writes this letter to request that you join this county in an effort to locate a private university in our region. El Dorado County has long sought to locate a private university in the westernmost part of the county that will serve and benefit the entire Sacramento region. El Dorado County should not be alone in this effort, nor should it be the sole benefactor of such a region-serving asset. We will all benefit, but we all need to come together to support this effort in making the vision become reality.

We should all be proud that the State of California has some of the finest public higher education systems in the world, however, California's ability to provide those educational opportunities in the future, much less the present, is threatened due to ever increasing competition for the state's limited revenues. We cannot rely on the State of California to provide higher education facilities to keep up with the growth of our population. But we know that our communities, our constituents, (both existing and in the future), our businesses, our charities, and our society will become more sustainable and self-reliant with an educated workforce as well as a better educated general population. As policy makers, it is our duty to rise to the occasion, to promote opportunities that improve our communities when they are presented.

In the broader sphere of learning, education, and research, what our region lacks is a consortium of private and public institutions that over time will provide a comprehensive set of educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in engineering, business, computers, physical sciences, and medicine as well as the arts and humanities.

Our quest will meet the challenge of the 21st century for this region, namely the creation of a strategically based learning center that can serve the entire Pacific Basin. The geographic location of the Sacramento Region of Northern California makes it well situated to serve as that future higher learning capital for the entire Pacific Basin. By the joint effort of local governments and the private sector, the land area that we've mentioned can be made available for that purpose. But we need a plan for its achievement.

Chairman Don Nottoli

December 4, 2012

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By adoption of a plan to build a campus along the borders of El Dorado and Sacramento counties, we can lay the foundation for institutions of higher learning to serve the nations and peoples of the Pacific Basin for the next one thousand years in the same way that the chief European universities have served the peoples of the Atlantic Basin for the past millennium. New paths are essential to the long term vitality of any human institution. This project would present the opportunity for growth in new and unexpected ways but consistent with its avowed mission to serve as a learning center for the Pacific Basin.

Beyond doubt California's educational standard bearers, namely, the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, The University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Davis and California Institute of Technology are international leaders in science, technology, business, and medical knowledge. But only one of them (UC Davis) is located within our region. If our generation of leaders has the foresight to establish another university of equal stature, the next standard bearer will be here, in one place, in our place, provided we put our heads, minds and souls behind an effort to make it happen.

Sincerely,
County of El Dorado

John R. Knight, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

Cc: Governor Brown
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