January 18, 2001

Brian M. Slator, Associate Professor
Computer Science Program
North Dakota State University
IACC Building, Room 262E
Fargo, ND 58105

Dear Dr. Slator:

As Dean of the United Tribes Technical College I am delighted to support this collaborative effort in Computer Science education and research. The Programming Land MOOseum promises to provide exactly the right mix of innovation and scholarship, and I'm encouraged by the prospects.

Computer Science education and computer literacy in workforce training are continuing goals of our institution. We strive to provide the very best instruction and incorporate the very latest in pedagogical research as we work towards preparing our students for technical employment in the 21st century. However, we struggle against the same trends that most institutions do: a diverse student body whose priorities are divided between education, current employment, and family commitments.

The potential of the Programming Land system is particularly attractive in offering solid content in innovative ways through anytime/self-paced means. We are particularly hopeful that systems like this, enabling outside classroom learning, will appeal to our students as a complement to the existing lecture-and-lab approaches.

In every respect, we at UTTC are eager to contribute to this study. We are hoping to learn whether such systems can better serve our students, and we look forward to participating in this, and supporting it, in any way we can.

I am personally looking forward to the partnership of NDSU and UTTC on this impending venture. I am excited that we can share resources on this. It sounds like a unique opportunity. I think that our Computer Support Technology Director, William Reynolds, is an excellent person to have on board for this endeavor.

Sincerely,

John E. Derby

John E. Derby
Academic Dean

cc: Dave Gipp, President