



**FORT
ABRAHAM
LINCOLN
FOUNDATION**

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March 15, 2002

Jeffrey Clark, Ph. D.
Department of Sociology-Anthropology
North Dakota State University
P. O. Box 5075
Fargo, North Dakota 58105

Dear Dr. Clark:

Please accept this as a letter of support for your efforts to create a "virtual" Mandan Indian village in the Archaeology Technologies Laboratory of North Dakota State University. Yours is a great and truly exciting project with a host of educational applications.

As you know, the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the past to life, and to bringing modern-day visitors to the past. We are currently involved in a \$1.9 million restoration of On-a-Slant Mandan Indian village at Fort Lincoln State Park near Mandan, North Dakota.

The uses of the SGI Reality Center are limited only by our imaginations. The ability to teach about the earthlodge peoples of the Missouri will grow enormously when we can immerse visitors in the virtual village, adding a depth of understanding not really possible to reach with our restorations of four or five earthlodges presented by two or three Native American tour guides. We can tell the stories well, but the work you are doing and proposing to expand will lend such texture to the learning, broadening the experience so that visitors can really understand the great depth and breadth of this remarkable Native American culture.

Please feel free to use this as a letter of support for your project, because that is exactly what it is. I wish you all the best and look forward to a long and productive partnership in bringing the past to life.

Sincerely,

Tracy Potter
Executive Director