

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES
CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION & TRANSLATION RESEARCH
P.O. BOX 9037
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58202-9037
(701) 777-4046
FAX (701) 777-2387

January 31, 2003

Dr. Jeffrey Clark and Dr. Brian M. Slator
Sociology/Anthropology and Computer Science Departments
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND 58105

Dear Dr. Clark and Dr. Slator:

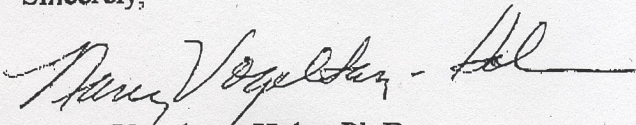
I am pleased to write in support of your proposed "Native Dancer" project.

Type 2 diabetes (diabetes mellitus) is a serious and growing problem relating to physical and emotional health, and family and societal costs. While diabetes is devastating across society, it disproportionately affects Native American populations.

Your approach, combining elements of culturally relevant exercise, in the form of an interactive dance video game, with a culturally embedded virtual environment for health and nutrition education, seems like just the right combination of theory and novelty. You are tackling a hard problem: changing attitudes and behaviors in the name of disease prevention. What you propose strikes me as thoughtful and appropriate, especially in terms of its multiple levels of appeal, on both cultural and youth-oriented grounds.

We look forward to your success with this project, and are particularly keen to be involved with testing activities as you produce versions on the way to completion.

Sincerely,



Nancy Vogeltanz-Holm, Ph.D.
Director of Primary Prevention
Center for Health Promotion and Translation Research (CHPTR)
Associate Professor of Neuroscience
Email: nancy.vogeltanz@und.nodak.edu

