



ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH  
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - PAN AMERICAN

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Dr. Brian M. Slator  
Computer Science Department  
North Dakota State University  
Fargo, ND 58105

September 15, 2003

Dear Dr. Slator

On behalf of The University of Texas-Pan American, I am pleased to indicate our strong interest in collaborating with you and your colleagues at North Dakota State University in efforts to establish a Science Learning Center for Immersive Virtual Environments in Education.

The University of Texas-Pan American's Computing and Information Technology Center, Center for Distance Learning, and Department of Computer Science will commit computing and human infrastructure resources to this partnership to form a world class Science Learning Center.

The proposed investigations involving scenario-based assessment and simulated worlds promoting culturally motivated knowledge acquisition are of particular interest and relevance to the University. UTPA is a Hispanic Serving Institution with a majority-minority population: approximately 87% of the over 15,000 are Hispanic. Additionally, the University serves a large number of agricultural migrant-working families, whose children attend college and are the first in their families to become college graduates. Thus, UTPA can bring a unique social and cultural laboratory to the partnership.

We look forward to building a strong research relationship with North Dakota State University through this collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wendy A. Lawrence-Fowler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wendy" being the most prominent.

Wendy A. Lawrence-Fowler, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Vice President for Research