

April 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Dr. Bridges' proposal entitled "NMIX+CS: Developing the diverse computationally-enhanced interdisciplinary workforce of New Mexico", and I commit to serving on its External Advisory Board. This project is incredibly innovative. The program could be an important model for the field of nursing, where it could result in much stronger preparation of nurses for engagement in biomedical informatics. We have a pressing workforce shortage of informatics nurses, nurses who can work to design and optimize the integration of electronic health records into clinical workflow. At the same time, we have unprecedented opportunity to innovate the ways we use biomedical data, information and knowledge to advance health outcomes important to nursing. NMIX+CS students prepared in nursing and computational thinking will be especially well positioned to pursue graduate education and careers in biomedical and nursing informatics.

I am enthusiastic about contributing my experience in education and research as a member of the interdisciplinary External Advisory Board. I am a Professor of Nursing, Associate Dean for Research and PhD Program, Adjunct Associate Professor of Biomedical Informatics, and a Presidential Scholar at the University of Utah. I teach and conduct federally-funded research in the area of biomedical informatics, focusing on informatics applications in poison control. I have expertise in applied machine learning, health information exchange, clinical informatics, among other areas. I also contribute to nursing informatics research and policy efforts on a national level. I previously chaired the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, the intramural research division of the National Library of Medicine, and I've served on the board of the Alliance for Nursing Informatics. I hold the honor of fellowship in both the American College of Medical Informatics and The American Academy of Nursing, and actively contribute to both organizations. Currently, I focus on leading informatics policy initiatives as co-Chair of the Informatics and Technology Expert Panel (ITEP) of the American Academy of Nursing.

As an External Advisory Board member, I will provide critical review of the project design and activities. I commit to attending two meetings during 2020-2021, during which I will collaborate with other board members to review curriculum development activities, organizational structure, mechanisms for and evidence of institutional collaborations, data collection, analyses, and reporting plans. The program has my full support and I look forward to making this contribution.

Sincerely,



Mollie R. Cummins, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI  
Associate Dean for Research and the PhD Program  
Professor  
Presidential Scholar