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Dr. Ted Mims  
Computer Science Department  
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One University Plaza  
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December 31, 2008

Dear Dr. Mims,

I was very pleased to hear that you and your faculty will be submitting your application to be considered for recognition as an NSA Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance. As you know, I have worked with you both in the capacity of NSF Visiting Team member and in my role as Secretariat for The Colloquium, and have seen the quality of your work and vision first hand.

Not only have you and your colleagues at University of Illinois at Springfield added to the IA educational offerings at your school, but you continue to promote IA through your support of CSSIA workshops, graduate school courses, and the annual Cyber Defense and Disaster Recovery Conference. Additionally, your willingness to document and discuss your 2+2 articulation program at the 2008 Colloquium was greatly appreciated and helped disseminate that needed information to the community college audience.

Leadership in curriculum development, research, faculty education, and outreach in our growing field of IA is absolutely critical right now. You and your colleagues are solid examples of those stepping forward to take on leadership positions. In particular, the work you've accomplished in offering graduate credits for CSSIA faculty and partners to enhance their IA knowledge was a great benefit to the students who continue to take advantage of the offerings.

As always, please let me know how I can assist you in your endeavors. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming CSSIA annual NSF visit.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara J. Belón". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara J. Belón