

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

323 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4328
(202) 225-1640
(202) 225-1641 (FAX)

www.house.gov/rodriguez



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

January 8, 2002

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
AND FACILITIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS
OVERSIGHT PANEL ON TERRORISM
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
FIRST VICE CHAIR
CHAIR, HEALTH TASK FORCE

Dr. William V. Maconachy
Manager
National Information Systems Security Education and Training Program
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road, SAB3
Fort George G Meade, Maryland 20755

Dear Dr. Maconachy:

I write to express my strong support for the designation of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency. UTSA has established a strong information assurance (IA) program, and if designated would be the first for a university in the State of Texas.

San Antonio, Texas is home to a growing information assurance industry anchored by the Air Force's Air Intelligence Agency (AIA), which is the Department of Defense leader in information assurance. To address the demand for a qualified workforce, continuing education, and research, UTSA established an undergraduate program specializing in information assurance.

UTSA partnered with AIA, the local computer security/IA industry, community colleges, and local high schools to create an innovative Center for Infrastructure and Assurance Security (CIAS). As a collaboration among UTSA's schools of business, engineering, and sciences, CIAS will interact with students in multiple disciplines. CIAS will also work to promote information assurance education and opportunities to high school, junior college, university students, create IA partnerships between academia, industry, and government, and to support/encourage IA research. Several UTSA information assurance program staff work in the IA industry or are military reservists working with AIA. This strong interaction with industry and government enhances UTSA's information assurance program for students.

Congress recently provided UTSA \$2.5 million in FY 2002 funding for CIAS. UTSA will use this money to enhance and expand its program, with the ultimate goal of creating a graduate and doctoral level studies program in information assurance.

UTSA is also committed serving the Hispanic population of Texas and ranks fifth nationwide in undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanics, according to an annual ranking of colleges and universities published in the Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education. UTSA's strong business,

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT OFFICE

400 E. GRAVIS STREET
COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2ND FL
SAN DIEGO, TX 78384
(361) 279-3907 • (361) 279-8117 (FAX)

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT OFFICE

1313 SE MILITARY DRIVE, SUITE 115
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78214-2851
(210) 924-7383 • (210) 927-6222 (FAX)

ROMA DISTRICT OFFICE

301 LINCOLN STREET
ROMA, TX 78584
(956) 847-1111 • (956) 849-3871 (FAX)

Dr. William V. Maconachy

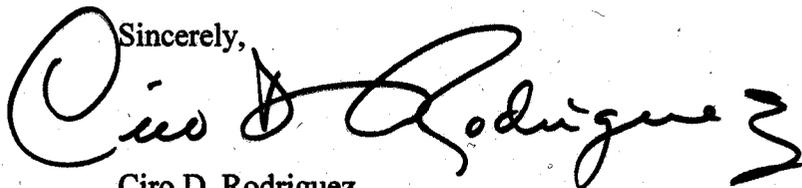
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marketing, teacher education, and engineering programs consistently rank well in U.S. News and World Report Magazine.

Given UTSA's strong information assurance education program, partnerships with industry and government, and commitment to education diversity I would urge the National Security Agency to designate the University of Texas at San Antonio as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ciro D. Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress

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