



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

Dr. Christopher Cassirer
Office of the President
Capella University
225 South 6th Street
9th Floor
Minneapolis, MN. 55402

Dear President Cassirer,


As the Information Assurance Director at the National Security Agency (NSA), I commend you on the continued support and dedication of Capella University in making Information Assurance (IA) education a priority at your institution. Capella University is well positioned to help ensure the Nation is protected from future cyber vulnerabilities and attacks through the students you educate and the research opportunities you provide. The Centers of Academic Excellence in IA Education (CAE) program is well recognized by government, industry and academia, as one that produces well-educated students who understand Information Assurance. I would like to emphasize the importance of your program and students to NSA and the Nation.

Graduates from the CAE programs enter the workforce prepared to make an immediate contribution, leading the Nation to a more secure future. This is necessary, as the technological advancements made to improve our lives also contribute to our Nation's vulnerability to intentional attacks, human error and other natural causes. From collection and distribution points dependent on aged Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, to protecting confidential medical records, to sophisticated air traffic control systems, our citizens are increasingly dependent on the assurance that those systems will not fail. Our networks and infrastructures are increasingly interconnected and are not solely owned and operated by the federal government. Those who are responsible for the design, development, use and maintenance of these networks, and all critical infrastructure systems, reside in your state and may attend your institution. This enables employers to knowingly hire highly qualified graduates from your institution and engage them in the mission to secure the Nation's information and critical infrastructures.

NSA projects to fill approximately 1300 positions each year for the next few years, and we are actively recruiting from the CAE Institutions to fill our critical Information Assurance positions. We offer significant opportunities to work in a world class research environment and to be on the cutting edge of solutions for the future. The President, Congress, the Department of

Defense, National Security Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security realize the criticality of partnering with academia to ensure our Nation's future. As such, we are pursuing strong alliances with our CAEs to ensure we can continue to improve and rely on the Information Assurance education and research of the next generation.

Thank you for your contributions and I look forward to working with you in the future.



RICHARD C. SCHAEFFER
Information Assurance
Director