December 18, 2017

Dr. Taylor Eighmy  
President  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, TX  78249

Dear Dr. Eighmy:

On behalf of the City of San Antonio, I present this letter in support of the effort by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to build and establish a cutting edge National Security Collaboration Center (NSCC) and Computational Research Building (CRB). By establishing a physical asset that advances research, education, and workforce development in the areas of cybersecurity, data analytics, and cloud computing, the NSCC and CRB will advance a collaborative, impactful ecosystem that further bolsters San Antonio’s growing cybersecurity industry.

While similar concepts exist in other communities, the NSCC’s goal of engaging multiple federal partners in joint research and in the development, testing, and evaluation of cyber and cloud related technologies and concepts is truly unique. The presence of several significant cybersecurity operations right here in “Military City USA,” including the 24th Air Force Cyber Command, 25th Air Force, National Security Agency (NSA) Texas, Federal Bureau of Investigation and US Secret Service, provide a strategic advantage for this project. Your existing relationship with both the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and NSA Texas and their current presence on campus also speaks to the recognition of UTSA as a leading academic institution for cybersecurity.

UTSA’s goal of developing the new, 5-story, 50,000 square foot state-of-the-art CRB to house the NSCC illustrates its commitment to not only the growth and development of its students and faculty, but also to advancing industry collaboration and partnerships.
The inclusion of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF), Cyber Laboratory and Network Range, Data Analytics Laboratory, various cloud computing, visualization, and machine learning technologies and resources, and an Innovation Factory for academia, industry, and industry collaboration and product development within the CRB further speaks to the university’s vision and commitment. As a resource for learning, development, and growth, it will also advance San Antonio’s position as a regional and national hub for innovation and development in the cybersecurity.

This project not only provides a great resource for UTSA, but also advances the City’s long-term planning laid out in our SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan and our economic development strategic plan, Forefront SA, by furthering the development of our local targeted industries and supporting the continued growth of our local workforce and entrepreneurial ecosystem. We are also excited about the opportunity to advance collaboration on issues around open data and with local cybersecurity partners.

We are incredibly excited about this major step towards UTSA’s recognition as a Tier 1 university, and the opportunity such a catalytic project provides to ensure the university’s competitive advantage and reputation as the country’s premier university cybersecurity program.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly or City Manager Sheryl Sculley at (210) 207-7082, and we look forward to furthering this excellent opportunity for UTSA and the larger San Antonio community.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Ron Nirenberg
MAYOR

cc: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager
Roderick J. Sanchez, Assistant City Manager
Rene Dominguez, Director, Economic Development Department