

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

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January 26, 2012

Mr. David Kappos
Director, United States Patent and Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: USPTO Satellite Facility in North Carolina

I understand that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is considering the establishment of satellite offices around the country to support our nations' innovators. As the Dean of the only College of Engineering in the Piedmont Triad area of the state of North Carolina, I am pleased to provide a letter of support to locate such a satellite facility in North Carolina.

The College of Engineering at North Carolina A&T State University has a long history of research driving new technologies. We have several points of pride that could both help and be helped by such a facility being located in our state. I have listed these points of pride under the categories of Research & Innovation, and Engineering Manpower Diversity:

Research & Innovation:

Our College's research efforts are increasingly leading to patentable products, and as such the proximity of a USPTO satellite office in North Carolina would be very beneficial. To aid you in appreciating this I have highlighted here key examples of North Carolina A&T State University's research strengths:

- The research efforts of our college's faculty members resulted in the recent creation the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (JSNN) in Greensboro, NC.
- The NSF - Engineering Research Center for Revolutionizing Metallic Biomaterials (ERC-RMB) is led by faculty of this College. This ERC engages many partners, across the US and throughout the world, in its collaborative research and educational programs focused on developing novel metallic biomaterials and smart coatings with built-in responsive biosensory capabilities to adapt to biological changes. In 2012, the ERC will organize the first ever biodegradable metals global conference at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to enable knowledge exchange on the subject between academic, large industries, and entrepreneurs.
- The Center for Energy Research and Technology (CERT) was the host to the International Conference on Green Energy and Building Materials at North Carolina A&T, in the Fall of 2010 and again in the Fall of 2011. This annual conference brings together an international community of researchers, corporate practitioners, and governmental dignitaries to exchange information and synergize efforts in this key area.

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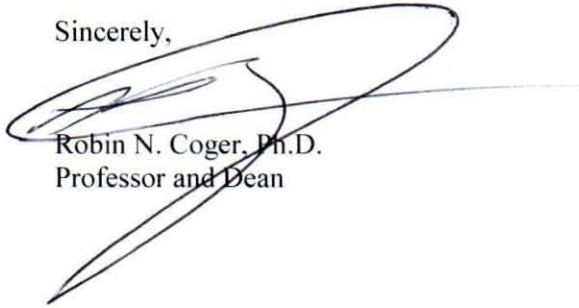
- The Center for Aviation Safety (CAS); CAS' research goal is focused on developing materials, tools, models and technologies that support the safe operation of aerospace vehicle, and it being achieved through 3 major research objectives: Advancing Composites and Structures; Integrating Vehicle Health Management; and Advancing Aeromechanics and Propulsion.
- The Center for Academic Studies in Identity Sciences (CASIS) is the first and only National Intelligence Science and Technology Center of Academic Excellence in the United States focuses on advanced biometrics.

Engineering Manpower Diversity

- The College of Engineering at NCA&T is a leading producer of African-American engineers (1st in the nation in the 2009 American Society of Engineering Education [ASEE] survey) and female engineers (7th in the nation according to the 2009 ASEE survey) at the B.S. level. Furthermore our Masters and Doctorate program continue to attract an international population of students.

We fully support the establishment of a USPTO satellite office in North Carolina. It would be a major benefit for our college and complement our state's long history of engineering innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin N. Coger', is written over a large, light-colored oval shape. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robin N. Coger, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean