

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Dean

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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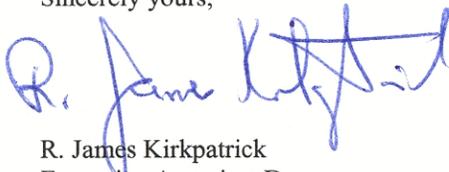
July 12, 2004

Dr. John Peoples
Project Director, Dark Energy Survey
Wilson Hall, MS 127
Fermilab
PO Box 500
Batavia, IL 60510-0050

Dear Dr. Peoples,

We write to provide strong and enthusiastic support from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the Dark Energy Survey, and we endorse this proposal to NOAO to build the dark energy camera, carry out the dark energy survey, and present these data for scientific use by the community. Observational characterization is essential to advancing understanding of dark energy and the mystery of cosmic acceleration. The proposed project is focused directly on this issue and is timely, well conceived and science-rich. It will deliver, in a relatively short time, important new insight into one of the most important fundamental properties of the universe. In addition, it will serve as an important precursor to the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, which will take longer to develop. The University of Illinois is providing a leadership role in the Dark Energy Survey data management. Thus, assuming the project is funded as currently envisioned, we will provide annually support for 0.5 FTE of a research programmer or astronomer over the four year, initial building phase of the project (2004-2008). This support will begin Fall 2004.

Sincerely yours,



R. James Kirkpatrick
Executive Associate Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Science



Lewis E. Snyder
Professor and Chair
Astronomy Department