October 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter of support for the Institute for Advanced Data Analytics. This Institute will allow the University of Arkansas to establish a leadership role in the areas of statistics and analytics. The unique value of the Institute focuses on two highly significant value propositions— supporting the growing needs of industry for talent, tools, education, and solutions in the analytics space; and greatly advancing the statistics and analytics curricula and programs at the University of Arkansas in support of the university's goal of becoming a top-50 public research institution. The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville is uniquely positioned to partner with industry on statistics and analytics given its strong existing ties to Fortune 500 companies in Northwest Arkansas. JB Hunt, Tyson and Walmart are heavily data-driven companies and the UA has had many long-standing partnerships with them. Further, a disproportionally large number of vendors working with Walmart have a physical presence in NW Arkansas. The Institute will be the bridge to address their many issues and problems, and be the source for continuing education and talent as they continue to grow their analytic capabilities.

The Institute of Advanced Data Analytics will be an interdisciplinary institute with collaborative projects across disciplines and across campus. The Institute will support the campus-wide interdisciplinary Statistics and Analytics degree programs consisting of dedicated tracks in statistics, computation analytics, business analytics, bio-analytics, operations analytics, quantitative social science, and education statistics and psychometrics. Recognizing the critical need for analytics in curricula, the UA has hired and plans to hire several faculty in the area of analytics. The Walton College of Business has hired one clinical and plans to hire another clinical faculty member this year to support the analytics curriculum; the College of Engineering plans to hire three research faculty in this area, one Endowed Chair Professor and one junior faculty member in Industrial Engineering and another Professor in the Computer Science and Computer Engineering Department; the Department of Mathematical Sciences in the Fulbright College has recently hired several statisticians and has plans to hire two additional statistics faculty who can support the Advanced Data Analytics Institute. The interdisciplinary leadership team and the diversity of faculty members and researchers provide us the opportunity to establish ourselves as a leader in the Data and Analytics space. The Institute will assist in addressing the many challenges and opportunities industry and society face as the volume and variety of data increases, as does the speed at which this information must be used to support critical decisions. I am confident that the Institute will be a strong attraction for students, faculty, researchers and industry across the country.

Sincerely,

Todd Shields
Dean

October 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter of support for the Institute for Advanced Data Analytics. This Institute will allow the University of Arkansas to establish a leadership role in the areas of statistics and analytics. The unique value of the Institute focuses on two highly significant value propositions— supporting the growing needs of industry for talent, tools, education, and solutions in the analytics space and greatly advancing the statistics and analytics curricula and programs at the University of Arkansas in support of the universities goal of becoming a top 50 public research institution. The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville is uniquely positioned to partner with industry on statistics and analytics given their strong existing ties to Fortune 500 companies in Northwest Arkansas. JB Hunt, Tyson and Walmart are heavily data driven companies and the UA has had many long-standing partnerships with them. Further, a disproportionality large number of vendors working with Walmart have a physical presence in NW Arkansas. The Institute will be the bridge to address their many issues and problems and be the source for continuing education and talent as they continue to grow their analytic capabilities.

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Sincerely,

John R. English, Ph.D., P.E.
Dean of Engineering
Professor & Irma F. and Raymond F. Giffels Endowed Chair in Engineering

October 5, 2015

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I write this letter of support for the Institute for Advanced Data Analytics. This Institute will allow the University of Arkansas to establish a leadership role in the areas of statistics and analytics. Organizations derive competitive advantage by efficient and effective leveraging of data analytics. Data and analytics trends provide staggering opportunities as evidenced by universities like Michigan investing $100 and Clemson adding 10 post-doctoral scholars. The unique value of the Institute focuses on two highly significant value propositions— supporting the growing needs of industry for talent, tools, education, and solutions in the analytics space and greatly advancing the statistics and analytics curricula and programs at the University of Arkansas in support of the universities goal of becoming a top 50 public research institution. The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville is uniquely positioned to partner with industry on statistics and analytics given their strong existing ties to Fortune 500 companies in Northwest Arkansas. JB Hunt, Tyson and Walmart are heavily data driven companies and the UA has had many long standing partnerships with them. Further, a disproportionality large number of vendors working with Walmart have a physical presence in NW Arkansas. The Institute will be the bridge to address their many issues and problems and be the source for continuing education and talent as they continue to grow their analytic capabilities.

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Sincerely,

Matt Waller
Dean of the Walton College of Business