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To whom it may concern:

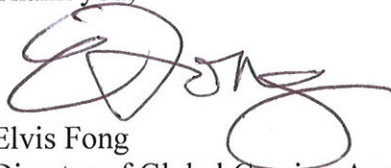
I am writing today to express my support for the proposed Data Analytics and Applied Economics program.

I graduated from UNLV six years ago with a Master's degree in economics, and to this day, I am very grateful to have embarked on that program. Since graduating, I have worked in the gaming and hospitality industry providing support in analytics. There is not one day that goes by that the reasoning and research skills that I take away from that program do not help me succeed in my job, and for that reason, I can attest to the importance of an education in economic theory.

My work, however, has extended beyond analysis, and I have witnessed firsthand through my own involvement in projects as well as from other people that I have worked with the value of combining strong analytical skills with strong technical skills. Such skills include being able to read and query data, computer programming, and literacy in business intelligence and data visualization tools. After all, you need to be able to extract data before you can analyze them. You need to be able to code to facilitate reporting and modeling. And you need to know how to communicate findings using the best tools employed in the industry. Being technically capable goes hand in hand with being analytically capable.

I urge you to strongly consider implementing this program. I know I would have found such a comprehensive curriculum beneficial given my own career track. Today, analysts and data scientists are in higher demand than ever. As a manager, I can say with confidence that this program will prepare students to fill that demand.

Thank you,



Elvis Fong  
Director of Global Gaming Analytics  
Las Vegas Sands Corp.