



February 10, 2011

Board of Regents  
State of Louisiana

Dear Board Members,

This is a letter in support of the Department of Mathematics at Northwestern State University continuing to offer a degree in mathematics. The reason that they should be allowed to continue offering a mathematics degree is simple: they do an excellent job. They produce students who are well educated and who are prepared to be successful at the next level. I do not know the quantity that they produce, but I have first hand knowledge of the quality.

Their graduates are very successful in our Masters and PhD programs. They come to us well prepared in mathematics and well trained in hard work. I have taught several of their graduates in Advanced Calculus, Topology and Algebraic Topology. They are great students; they are prepared to learn. I will accept all they have to offer into our graduate program.

They also do a lot of extras with their students. For the annual meeting of the LA/MS Section of Mathematical Association of America, they usually bring eight undergraduates. These students participate in the competitive exam administered by the Section and some give presentations on special projects that they prepared under the guidance of a faculty member. Attendance at this meeting provides a rich experience for these students.

The State of Louisiana does not need fewer mathematics degrees like the one offered at Northwestern; the college bound students in Louisiana deserve more such opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vic Schneider  
Professor of Mathematics  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette