

March 1, 2010

Dr. Randall J. Webb, President  
Room 102, Creative & Performing Arts Building  
Northwestern State University

Dear Dr. Webb

We are aware that Northwestern State University is currently reviewing programs for elimination. The Master of Arts in Heritage Resources (MAHR) program is one program included on Northwestern State University's (NSU) Program Review list for possible elimination.

The elimination of this program would be a great loss not only for the university, but also for the local, regional, state, and national resources as well. Alumni of the MAHR program work with governmental agencies like the National Parks Service, The Louisiana Secretary of State Museums Division, U.S. Forestry Service and FEMA.

The MAHR program provides the local communities with much needed Service Learning activities which aid in the preservation of the cultural resources. Students are interns and graduate assistants at numerous area agencies and organizations. They are instrumental in supporting cultural events and programming at NSU and the broader community.

The MAHR program is a unique holistic program which incorporates the field of anthropology, archaeology, architecture, materials conservation, cultural landscapes, ethnography, oral history, and museum collections. It is the only program of its kind in the state.

The home of the MAHR program, NSU, is located within the Cane River National Heritage Area which is one of the most culturally rich regions in the nation. Our area provides a range of resources to perform scholarly research and hands on training necessary for the success of a program of this magnitude. Heritage tourism and the University are the twin economic engines of Natchitoches and the Cane River region.

We urge you to support Natchitoches' heritage resources by taking a clear and public stand in favor of the continuation of the Master of Arts in Heritage Resources program.

Sincerely,



Robert Caldwell  
President, Society for Heritage Resources, NSU Chapter



Marie Richards  
President, Anthropology Club at NSU



Michael Ashworth  
President, Native American Culture Association at NSU