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Center for Human Nutrition Studies Utah State University

Section I: Request

The Utah Science Technology and Research initiative (USTAR) Applied Nutrition Research Team in partnership with the College of Agriculture requests permission to create the *Center for Human Nutrition Studies* at Utah State University. The establishment of this Center would provide the organizational structure and logistic support for Utah State University research scientists with interests in conducting clinical studies with an emphasis on nutrition. The Center, with a core staff consisting of an experienced clinical researcher, community interventionist, research dietitian, clinic coordinator, laboratory research associate and support staff, coupled with an outstanding clinical facility and research kitchen, would serve as a resource to Utah State University researchers in efforts to secure extramural research funding and industry contracts and partnerships. The Center would also provide opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to gain experience in the design and conduct of human nutrition clinical studies.

Section II: Need

The Utah Science Technology and Research initiative (USTAR) has provided, through financial and infrastructure support, a unique opportunity at Utah State University to conduct high-impact clinical nutrition research. To the best of our knowledge, no similar facility/center exists within Utah. Given the economic importance of the natural products/dietary supplements industry in Utah and the increasing demand of both federal agencies and consumers to demonstrate product efficacy, the proposed Center would provide a much needed resource within the state in support of this industry. Designation of this resource as a “Center” would increase its visibility and facilitate marketing of its capabilities to the natural products/dietary supplements industry in Utah as well as large national and international food companies. Further, inclusion of the proposed center name on publications would further enhance its visibility, establish its credibility, and garner a favorable reputation under an identifiable entity. This would all support efforts to attract additional sources for contract research and partnerships and facilitate the obtainment of extramural grant support.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The proposed Center would provide new opportunities for research experience in the area of human nutrition for faculty and both undergraduate and graduate students. The organizational structure and branding will enhance extramural funding for faculty and serve as a recruiting tool for graduate students interested in human nutrition research and education. The *Center for Human Nutrition Studies* would be managed by the USTAR Applied Nutrition Research Team in conjunction with the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science and under the administrative oversight of the College of Agriculture. No new physical facilities or modifications to existing facilities will be required. Personnel and equipment required to create this center and implement its programs are already in place.

Section IV: Finances

Funding for the Center would be primarily supported by extramural funding in the form of federal grants and industry contracts with additional initial support from funds provided to investigators from the USTAR program. No budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution is anticipated.



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DATE: September 21, 2011

TO: Raymond Coward
Executive Vice President and Provost

FROM: Noelle Cockett
Dean, College of Agriculture

SUBJECT: Request to create the Center for Human Nutrition Studies

I would like to request that the *Center for Human Nutrition Studies* be created at Utah State University, as described within the attached R401. This proposal has been prepared by Michael Lefevre, USTAR Professor, and reviewed and approved by David Clark, Executive Director for the USTAR Applied Nutrition Research (ANR) Team. I am fully supportive of this proposal.

We believe that the creation of this Center will be instrumental in efforts to “market” ANR capabilities to both potential collaborators at USU and industry partners across the state and country.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

cc: M. Lefevre, USTAR Professor, NDFS Department
C. Carpenter, Head, NDFS Department
D. Clark, Executive Director for USTAR ANR