

Jeffrey Roberts  
*Frederick L. Hovde Dean*

March 25, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

This May will mark the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CERIAS (the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security). CERIAS has been masterfully led by Professor Eugene H. Spafford (“Spaf”) since it was founded. It is no exaggeration to state that Purdue’s reputation in information security, and its visibility within government and industry, is due in no small part to Spaf’s leadership.

17 years is an exceptionally long run for any center director, even one as successful as Spaf has been! Accordingly, and with the agreement of the other members of the administrative body overseeing CERIAS, I have decided that it is time to begin thinking about the next CERIAS director. The CERIAS Director search, which will be open to candidates from inside and outside the university, will be announced soon. The search committee members will include a broad range of campus stakeholders in education and research in computer and information security. Furthermore, the next CERIAS director will be expected to engage all CERIAS stakeholders in creating a vision for its future, so that the next 17 years are even more successful and impactful than the first 17 years have been.

Just as an unrelenting focus on computer and information security will be indispensable to our nation’s future, so will CERIAS and its work be drivers of Purdue’s reputation and stature. The CERIAS director search will be an especially important one, and I look forward to your ideas, energy, participation, and commitment to make it a success.

Over the next several weeks, I will be working with Spaf on a plan for maintaining leadership in CERIAS as we search for a new director, recognizing that Spaf is due for a well-earned sabbatical. Please join me in congratulating Spaf on his extraordinarily successful tenure as Executive Director of CERIAS, and in thanking him for his service.

Sincerely yours,



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