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UEC Statement:

This is a strange time to be a particle physicist. Our field is trembling with excitement over the prospects of discoveries at the LHC, in the neutrino sector, and in cosmology. The breathtaking scope of our ignorance has generated a wide range of new initiatives as we try to get some grip on the unknown. Unfortunately, this vision of extraordinary opportunity appears to be mostly lost on a largely-apathetic or even hostile public as well as on elected representatives whose only future is the next election cycle. I feel that the budgetary chaos of this past year is a warning sign to all of us that it is our responsibility to communicate our enthusiasm, our sense of wonderment, and the scope of our enterprise in a way that the public and our benefactors can understand it, and more importantly, support it. The UEC serves a crucial role in this respect, acting as a conduit of information and ideas among the users, the Lab, the funding agencies, and Congress. I believe that the UEC should be a strong and active participant in sharpening the perception of our field, the vision of science and technology that needs to be presented to the public in order to sustain particle physics in particular, and investment in the scientific enterprise in general. Throughout my career, I have invested considerable time and effort towards outreach directed at a wide variety of audiences. I look forward to continuing this as part of the UEC, acting as an energetic ambassador to the various groups that we must engage, including Congress.

As a user, I feel a responsibility to help Fermilab maintain its position as the nation's premier facility for particle physics, and I am willing to devote a significant portion of my effort to the UEC to further this cause. As a user from the Midwest, I have an additional motivation: generations of our students, postdocs, and faculty have benefitted from having a world-class particle physics research facility close to Notre Dame, and I am keenly interested in having this continue. This year's funding crisis has hit Fermilab at a vulnerable time, as the Lab works through various versions of its vision for the future. There has been a vigorous dialogue between members of the user community and the Lab as plans have been formed, with the UEC playing a central role. I would like to see this effort strengthened as we move through the current uncertainties to a solid accelerator-based program that reaches well into the future. A vocal, active UEC can help the Lab crystallize the elements of its future plans while generating a consensus of approval within the User community. As a user, I have been involved with experiments at Fermilab, SLAC, Brookhaven, KEK, and CERN. In addition to the formation of my diverse scientific experience and interests, this has given me broad exposure to a variety of different lab-user interactions and many versions of future-planning in many different lab environments. In each case, however, I went to these facilities because the science was *there*. I believe that Fermilab must have a vital local program in order to survive, and I hope that my diverse experience in both past and current research will provide a useful perspective as the Lab refines its future goals in the context of global science.