LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 2

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

(Center, Division or Institute not offering primary faculty appointments or certificate/

degree programs)

1. Institution Submitting Request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville
2. Contact Person/Title: Dr. Terry Martin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
3. Phone Number/E-mail Address: (479) 575-2151/tmartin@uark.edu
4. Name of Proposed Administrative Unit: Blockchain Center of Excellence (BCoE)
5. Proposed Location: JBHT 409, University of Arkansas Main Campus
6. Distance of Proposed Unit from Main Campus: On campus
7. Reason for Proposed Action:

Blockchain[[1]](#footnote-1) technology offers a secure, verifiable way to maintain an encrypted accounting ledger of business transactions across multinational borders. This could significantly affect the way that ‘business does business,’ accounts for business transactions, and tracks products in multinational supply chains. Other promising applications of blockchain and cognitive analytics include Financial Services, Inter-/Intra-bank Fund Transfers, Insurance, and Healthcare.

The development of shareable blockchains, such as Hyperledger, will provide added enhancement and support for Walton College world-class projects and centers such as the McMillon Innovation Studio, Brewer Family Entrepreneurship Hub, The Sustainability Consortium, the Center for Retailing Excellence, and the J B Hunt Innovation Center of Excellence. It offers an opportunity to provide educational materials as well as significant primary research for practitioners and academics. As a leader in these technologies, the intent is to also share these materials with other universities. This would be similar to how Walton Enterprise Systems has been sharing materials with universities world-wide. Resultant white papers, including fundamental research findings and published articles will be shared with the industry partners and the academic community via conferences and publications.

Specific Aims

Specific project aims and activities include -

* Conduct basic, collaborative, industry-university research in blockchain (e.g. proof of concepts, use cases, projects),
* Develop and establish research partnerships and alliances with companies and other universities,
* Promote and enable knowledge dissemination by developing course modules, examples, case studies, problem sets, and solutions that could be used in existing classes and shared,
* Support industry adoption and value identification via our research efforts.

1. Mission and role for proposed unit:

Vision**:** To become a premier academic leader in advocacy and education on blockchain.

Mission:

* Develop and establish research partnerships, alliances, and standards
* Conduct collaborative industry-university research (e.g. proof of concepts, use cases, projects)
* Promote and enable knowledge dissemination
* Accelerate industry adoption and value identification

Provide Blockchain Center of Excellence funding by raising $1M annually from membership.

1. Provide current and proposed organizational chart.

**Blockchain Center of Excellence (BCoE)** **Steering Committee**

* Dean, WCOB
* Department Chair, ISYS
* Select Faculty

**Administrative Support**

* Enterprise Systems IT Support
* 1 GA – Master Level
* 1 GA – Doctoral Level

**Director, Blockchain Center of Excellence**;

Enterprise Systems

Information Systems

**Executive Advisory Board**

Industry Members

**Academic Advisory Board**

* Information Systems Faculty (select)
* Walton College and UA Faculty (select)

**Advisory Board**

Industry Members

1. Provide copy of e-mail notification to other institutions in the area of proposed location and their responses; include your reply to the institutional responses.

Not needed for Center proposals.

1. Provide additional program information if requested by ADHE staff.

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 8, 2018

Board of Trustees Approval or Notification Date: March 29, 2018

Chief Academic Officer: James S. Coleman Date: January 2, 2018

1. Blockchains are encrypted data (typically transactions) in which an accounting ledger of verified events are distributed across multiple networked computer systems producing a block of data. These blocks of data are sequenced chains of events which are used to prove that a sequence of events took place in a certain order at a particular time. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)