

Christopher Bilder

From: Chanda, Aleena <ach100@juniata.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:09 PM
To: Bertrand Clarke; Christopher Bilder; Bhaskar Bhattacharya
Subject: Copy of the support letter for the Department of Statistics

Caution: Non-NU Email

Hello Bert, Professor Bilder, Prof. Bhattacharya,

Hope that you all are doing well.

I sent my support letter for the department in the student feedback form. I was not sure if you would have a copy of the letter, so I decided I would send it here as well.

Regards,

Aleena.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a proud alum of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Department of Statistics to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the department.

The Statistics Department played a defining role in my academic and professional journey. Through my time as a graduate student, I gained extensive teaching experience in undergraduate statistics courses, worked on consulting projects as part of my coursework, and received continuous support and mentorship from faculty. These experiences equipped me with the skills and confidence I now rely on in my career as an Assistant Professor of Statistics. Without the training and guidance of this department, I would not be where I am today.

It is also important to emphasize how much the department contributes to the broader university community. Courses such as STAT 801 and 802, along with many core statistics offerings, are required by students across disciplines. My own classmates and friends have also worked at the department’s statistical consulting desk, providing vital support to research projects across campus. In these ways, the department’s impact extends far beyond its own students; it is a cornerstone of UNL’s teaching and research mission.

For these reasons, I find the proposal to eliminate the department both deeply disappointing and alarming. To suggest that statistics can simply be absorbed into other units undervalues the discipline and ignores its central role in modern research and decision-making. Worse, such a move will inevitably drive future talent away from the university. Bright, motivated students will

look elsewhere for programs that respect and invest in statistics as a core discipline. Eliminating the department would harm current students, weaken the quality of research at UNL, and diminish the value of the degrees already earned by alumni like myself.

I urge the administration to reconsider this short-sighted decision. Instead of dismantling the department, UNL should be investing in it—strengthening a program that has trained successful alumni and supported the work of so many across the university.

**Sincerely,
Aleena Chanda
Assistant Professor**

Juniata College.

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