

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 17, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: Docket Number PTO-C-2011-0066
Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Mr. Khan:

As president of the nation's third-oldest technological university, I am writing to urge the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish a satellite office in Massachusetts as it moves to identify two additional new locations pursuant to Section 23 of the *America Invents Act*. I would appreciate having your assistance in bringing this plea to the attention of those responsible for making this decision.

The high concentration of research universities, technological institutes, academic medical centers, and high technology and life science industries makes Massachusetts, and especially the Boston/Cambridge area, a dense and intense hotbed of invention, innovation, and commercialization of new technologies. A satellite USPTO office in the Boston area would promote efficient protection and licensing of intellectual property both locally and throughout the New England region. There would be clear and important benefits:

to the Patent Office, by having access to the large number of technically trained graduates from Massachusetts universities as potential Patent Examiners;

to Massachusetts, by creating job opportunities for the many highly trained graduates of our institutions of higher education; and

to our universities, academic medical centers, and high technology and life science companies, by having ready access to a satellite patent office and better opportunities for face-to-face meetings with Examiners.

Massachusetts is the hub of the innovation economy on the East Coast, if not for the entire nation. It consistently ranks first or second in number of patents per capita

Azam Khan
January 17, 2011
Page 2

nationally; it has a large number of law schools offering a variety of courses and programs in patent law; and it boasts the highest per-capita number of patent professionals outside of the Arlington, VA, area.

Beyond these compelling data is our heritage of invention and innovation. As was written in 1855 in the *London Times*, after the Paris Exhibition,

“The New Englander invents normally; his brain has a bias that way. He mechanizes as an old Greek sculptured, as the Venetian painted, or the modern Italian sang.”

(In *Two Towers, The Story of Worcester Tech 1865-1965*, by Mildred McClary Tymeson, published by WPI.)

My own institution, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, is proud to have an exceptionally large number of distinguished patent law professionals among its graduates. My own daughter, with a Ph.D. degree in genetics from Columbia University, now works in the field as well. As an informed stakeholder I can therefore state with great confidence my belief that the United States Patent Office, no less than the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and all of New England, would be extremely well served by a decision to locate a satellite USPIO office in the Boston area. I strongly urge that outcome.

With appreciation for your consideration, I am

Yours sincerely,



Dennis D. Berkey, Ph.D.
President and CEO