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September 8, 2016

Mr. John O. Brennan Director, Central Intelligence Agency Office of Public Affairs Washington, DC 20505

Dear Director Brennan:

I was delighted to learn about your planned visit to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on November 4, 2016, and to interact with members of our community. To help us make this visit productive, I wanted to share some thoughts about a possible schedule of events, and to seek your input on what would work best for you in the relatively short visit.

I have read the contents of your recent remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) where you described myriad challenges, including: global instability, opportunities and risks within the digital domain, and in particular, cybersecurity, nuclear proliferation, and other technological changes that impact national security. Each one of these areas is of great interest to Rensselaer students and faculty. The research program at our university is broad-based, and directly addresses global challenges, including climate change, biotechnology and disease mitigation, and challenges related to developing resilient infrastructure. Our focus on data exploration and applications undergirds developments in each of these domains. I do believe that your ideas in these and related areas would be of great interest to members of our community. Additionally, your thoughts on collaborative endeavors to address the most significant challenges of our times resonate well with our own approach that we have formalized in the construct of the "New Polytechnic."

Based on information provided by your office, we anticipate your arrival at Rensselaer to be at or just after 4:30 pm on Friday, November 4th. We would be honored to have you speak at 5:00 pm at our Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) on a theme similar to your CFR presentation – with a tie-in to our focus on technological solutions to global challenges, given our student body and faculty and their propensity for exploring and addressing the hard problems of today.

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Following the talk, I envision a short "fireside chat" where I will engage you in a conversation that links to several of the themes you will have raised in your talk. This will be followed by a brief Q&A session. If you plan to have other high-level intelligence community executives traveling with you, we can include them in this part of the afternoon's events. We will then give you an opportunity to meet some of our students from various groups across campus, and this will be followed by a tour of some of our advanced digital research platforms within EMPAC, including our Cognitive and Immersive Systems Laboratory and our Institute for Data Exploration and Applications. We will cap off the evening with a dinner for selected guests.

Below is a summary of the planned timeline:

4:30-5:00 pm	Arrive at Rensselaer's Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center
5:00-5:30 pm	Lecture to Rensselaer community
5:30-6:00 pm	Fireside Chat/O&A
6:00-6:45 pm	Meeting with Rensselaer students
6:45-7:30 pm	Tour of our Cognitive and Immersive Systems Laboratory and our Institute for Data Exploration and Applications
7:30 pm	Dinner at EMPAC

We are cognizant of your time and can modify this schedule as needed, including assuring that the dinner is not protracted.

I personally look forward to welcoming you to Rensselaer.

Very truly yours,

Shirley Sum Jackson, Ph.D.