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**BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE**  
*Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*

January 24, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

You will soon receive a letter and/or an email from the National Research Council (NRC), an office of the National Academies, asking you to participate in their doctoral education assessment project. Dean Linda Dykstra and Assistant Dean Stephanie Schmitt, both of the Graduate School, have worked tirelessly to help prepare Carolina to respond to the NRC assessment, and now the critical time has arrived.

As you know, the NRC assessment of doctoral programs is the most prestigious doctoral program evaluation and occurs only every 10 years or less. It is very important that you help the NRC appreciate the strength of our doctoral programs by participating in the survey, and I ask that you take the 15-30 minutes required to do so when you receive the NRC's request. Please bear in mind that only if you return your own survey will you be eligible to evaluate other doctoral programs in your field.

I know you have many other demands on your time, but the NRC assessment will be instrumental in ensuring Carolina's prominence as a doctoral institution for years to come. If you have any questions about the NRC assessment, please contact Assistant Dean Stephanie Schmitt ([sschmitt@unc.edu](mailto:sschmitt@unc.edu)) or Dean Linda Dykstra ([ldykstra@unc.edu](mailto:ldykstra@unc.edu)). They will be providing a tip sheet to assist faculty in filling out the survey.

Thank you again for your assistance with this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Gray-Little  
Executive Vice Chancellor  
and Provost

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