

Clarkson University  
Potsdam, NY 13699-5700

March 23, 2015

President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Guided by the principle of "*Technology Serving Humanity*," the Wallace H. Coulter School of Engineering at Clarkson University draws on a 120-year tradition of engineering excellence to develop and apply emerging technologies that benefit society and improve the quality of human life. Embracing the National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenges, we educate socially responsible leaders who are prepared to drive innovation in the global economy and find multidisciplinary solutions to the world's most pressing issues.

Clarkson students work closely with faculty-mentors in areas of vital research that include renewable energies, clean water, sustainability, advanced materials, biotechnology, and identification protection technology. Together, they participate in global learning opportunities and collaborate on design-and-build projects through Clarkson's chapter of *Engineers Without Borders* and the University's award-winning SPEED (Student Projects for Experiential Education and Design) program as well as research awards from federal and corporate partners. Through these kinds of activities, students move well beyond the boundaries of our campus and the traditional engineering disciplines to experience firsthand the interconnected processes of discovery, engineering innovation and enterprise.

Supporting the commercialization of new technology, Clarkson's Shipley Center for Innovation is a New York State Innovation Hot Spot with 72 projects in its pipeline to date and 12 start-ups created in the last 18 months. Developing successful entrepreneurial leaders who understand how to commercialize innovation from our laboratories and seize opportunities in the marketplace is a long-standing Clarkson tradition. It is why Clarkson has consistently been ranked among the nation's best institutions for entrepreneurship and why the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship named Clarkson the "National Model Undergraduate Program in Entrepreneurship Education" for 2015. It is why one in five of our alumni is already a CEO, senior executive or owner of a business.

In 2010, we introduced our campus community to the NAE's Grand Challenges through our New Horizons in Engineering Distinguished Lectureship Series. Since then, 11 distinguished NAE members have visited Clarkson and provided world-relevant inspiration towards solutions that illustrate these important issues.

Through a strategic and sustained effort, Clarkson is committed to preparing the next generation of innovation leaders and to developing and disseminating the technology that is necessary to successfully meet the engineering challenges we face today and in the future. We also plan to establish a formal Grand Challenge Scholar Program.

Sincerely,



Goodarz Ahmadi, Dean  
Wallace H. Coulter School of Engineering