



Washkewicz College of Engineering

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 23, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President,

Cleveland State University (CSU) is a metropolitan university inextricably linked and committed to the livelihood, viability, and progress of the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. At a time when higher education is being pressured to be more responsive to the public's needs, CSU embraces these responsibilities, is aggressively responding to the charge, and is gaining recognition as a best-in-class engaged urban university.

The Washkewicz College of Engineering at CSU focuses its research and teaching priorities on enabling Sustainable Urban Living, which align directly with the 21st-century Grand Challenges. Examples of ongoing and planned activities in the college include:

- Incorporating entrepreneurship and innovation experience for our students by letting students propose and work towards a startup company as their senior capstone course. For example, this year students are developing inexpensive devices to clean water and developing self-sustained ("off-the-grid") Green Houses for northern and urban settings,
- Incorporating sustainable design thinking throughout the curriculum. For example, when selecting materials for a product, students should understand the impact of the product's lifecycle: from mining and producing the material, through its useful life, and to finally recycling/reusing the material after reaching the useful life of the product.
- Incorporating social consciousness via actively collaboration with the departments within the Liberal Arts. For example, we are currently developing courses where engineering students will together with sociologists and ethicists develop and review framework for technologically important projects. Upcoming project includes the impact of Off-Shore Wind Turbines (in our case, Lake Erie).

These are just three examples on how we incorporate the Grand Challenges into our curriculum to inspire our students towards improving the human conditions and drive the national and world economies.

Sincerely,

Anette M. Karlsson, PhD
Dean of the Washkewicz College of Engineering
Cleveland State University