

The Pennsylvania State University
College of Engineering
University Park, PA 16802

March 23, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President,

In response to your call for U.S. engineering schools to lead the charge in addressing 21st century Grand Challenges, the Penn State College of Engineering commits, by 2019, to graduating at least 40 undergraduates and 10 graduate students as Grand Challenge Scholars.

Each of these students will engage in projects with partners outside of the U.S. that require them to develop innovative solutions to real problems that their partners are encountering. Project partners will be located in Africa, South America, the Far East, and the Caribbean. Through their project experience, students will develop their ability to understand problems in a global context, to engage with partners from different cultures and disciplines, and to develop innovative solutions that are appropriate to the communities in which the solutions will be implemented. Their cross-cultural experiences will also deepen students' social consciousness and awareness of the impact of engineering on societies. In addition to these transformative project experiences, students take courses that address cross-cultural communication, team skills, leadership, innovation, and creativity.

In order to be recognized as a Grand Challenge Scholar, students will be required to submit a portfolio demonstrating how they have achieved each of the five elements of the program: a project related to a Grand Challenge theme, interdisciplinary team work, entrepreneurship, global engagement, and service learning. The students' portfolios will also include reflections on their experiences and how the experiences have prepared them to address the Grand Challenges in their careers. I will host a luncheon each semester to recognize the students who complete the Grand Challenge Scholars program and present each of them with a certificate honoring them as Grand Challenge Scholars.

Sincerely,



Amr S. Elnashai, FREng
Harold and Inge Marcus Dean of Engineering