



March 23, 2015

OFFICE OF  
THE DEAN

COLLEGE OF  
ENGINEERING

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

Dear Mr. President,

I am delighted to commit the College of Engineering at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to graduating engineers that are prepared to meet the Grand Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

UTEP has become a model institution for urban-serving research universities. We reflect the demographics of our region (including 75% Hispanics), and our commitment to a dual Access and Excellence mission has manifested in recognition as a top 10 university by Washington Monthly, including a number 1 ranking in social mobility. We are also annually one of the top 5 producers of Hispanic engineers at the BS, MS, and PhD level.

We have already made great strides in our commitment to adequately prepare engineers to meet the Grand Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. UTEP is the first institution in the nation to offer a BS degree in Engineering Leadership. This degree program is designed to produce 21<sup>st</sup> century engineering leaders that exhibit the character, competence, and capacity to address the Grand Challenges. We have also established the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce to provide integrated curricular and extra-curricular experiences for engineering and business students in innovation and entrepreneurship. We also created an Office of Global Programs to promote and provide support infrastructure for global experiential learning, including the implementation of dual degree or dual course programs in the Czech Republic, South Korea, and Peru.

It is our intent to continue to build on these activities with formal programs in service learning and interdisciplinary research and design projects connected to the Grand Challenges.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Schoephoerster, PhD, PE  
Dean and Riter Professor

