

Washington State University
Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture
Pullman, WA 99164-2714

March 23, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President,

Washington State University (WSU) is pleased to join our peers in preparing a special workforce equipped to tackle increasingly complex and seemingly intractable societal Grand Challenges for Engineering, which in fact lie at the intersections of many disciplines. The Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture (VCEA) at Washington State University has accepted this challenge to prepare a cohort of 20 students per year for 10 years. We will develop a program that integrates the engineering curriculum with the following five, key elements:

1. A creative learning experience (e.g., design or research project) related to a Grand Challenge,
2. Interdisciplinary experience in such fields as public policy, law, ethics, medicine, etc.,
3. Entrepreneurship and innovation experience,
4. Global, cross-cultural experiences in unfamiliar environments related to a Grand Challenge, and
5. Developing social consciousness through service learning.

The WSU VCEA Grand Challenges Scholars Program (GCSP) will be built upon flexibility for the student to assemble a portfolio of all 5 elements. Students will propose their own program plan, and execute their plan, documenting their completion of all 5 required elements in their portfolio. The WSU GCSP will leverage our existing signature programs in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Cougar Undergraduate Research Experience program, our active student clubs, and the WSU Global Learning Programs.

The WSU VCEA is very pleased to participate in this historic effort to produce 10,000+ Grand Challenges Scholars in 10 years, prepared to solve the world's most difficult problems. We look forward to seeing what this next generation of engineers can accomplish!

Sincerely,


Candis Claiborn, Dean