

Michigan Technological University
Houghton, MI 49931

March 23, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President,

Michigan Technological University has a long history of preparing engineers for global citizenship and stewarding, in a sustainable manner, the earth and its resources. The nation's largest Peace Corps Master's International program is on our campus. Our students experience a business program as part of their optional Enterprise concentration. And our engineering Senior Design experiences are almost all related to real-world industry problems; some take place overseas in developing countries.

While most of our students experience a hands-on education that meets all or nearly all of the Grand Challenge criteria, many do not currently employ a coherent approach to this. This is changing, as described in the following statements.

Building on the success of our existing Global Technological Leadership (GTL) Program, the new Pavlis Honors College is developing a Scholars and Leaders Program that is in close alignment with the spirit of the Grand Challenges commitment. Through GTL, approximately 6 engineers per year (plus a roughly equivalent number of non-engineering students) already earn this distinction. Within the new framework, this program will grow to more than five times this size. As in GTL, the Scholars and Leaders program offers creative and experiential learning within an interdisciplinary framework, providing guidance and a platform for integrative learning. The new program opens GTL-style opportunities through the additional domains of innovation, research, service and industry. Uniquely, the Scholars and Leaders program is open to all motivated students, not only those exhibiting academic excellence. Details are available at <http://www.mtu.edu/honors/>.

We are presently developing methods to explicitly associate pathways in the Scholars and Leaders Program with the Grand Challenges Scholars Program. We will identify engineers in all of the pathways and assure that through this program they are meeting the exposure requirements in their "expertise" area. We will also work with students in the Program to identify their applicable Grand Challenges, leading to a notation within the recognition conferred at graduation indicating this distinction. As these ideas mature, a program aligned with the Grand Challenge commitment will emerge, threading together the existing mechanisms in a coherent whole.

Sincerely,



Wayne D Pennington
Dean of Engineering



Leonard J. Bohmann
Associate Dean of Engineering



Lorelle Meadows
Dean of the Pavlis Honors College

Michigan Tech
Create the Future