



■ Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D.
Dean
School of Engineering and Computing Sciences

March 9, 2015

The President
The Honorable Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to commend you on your call for our nation to lead the way in educating engineers that meet 21st-century Grand Challenges. As the first female Dean of Engineering and Computing Sciences at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), I would also like to express our institutional commitment to educating a new and diverse generation of engineers ready to address societal challenges identified through national initiatives including the White House Strategy for American Innovation, the National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenges for Engineering, and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

With a vision of "engineering for society: innovating for a better world", our School of Engineering is embarking on a new educational model that enhances existing programs by infusing inventions in the classroom, in particular through our newly unveiled Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center (ETIC). By leveraging the center's ongoing industry-academic partnerships, students will work on technological innovations in close collaboration with industry, the academic community, professional organizations, and government.

Our new initiatives will offer students the skillset and mindset to meet Grand Challenges over the course of their careers and integrate the following key elements:

- A creative learning experience connected to the larger society and addressing the Grand Challenges, such as our students' competing during the Student Day at the Second Global Grand Challenges Summit on the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE) Grand Challenges for Engineering (GCs). This event is jointly organized by the NAE, the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), and the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE) and will be hosted by the CAE in Beijing, September 14-16, 2015.
- Entrepreneurship and innovation experience through a "Turning Ideas into Companies" coursework in entrepreneurship, with mentors from start-ups and the angel and venture capital community.
- Global and cross-cultural perspectives gained through NYIT's global campuses (in Nanjing, Abu Dhabi and Vancouver) and experiences that promote involvement with globally complex issues in unfamiliar environments, such as a semester abroad and exchange students attending our New York campuses.

- Development of social consciousness through service-learning, such as problem-based community projects that foster an appreciation of the impact of engineering and its role in serving human welfare and the needs of society.

This paradigm shift in the way education is tied to economic and societal needs enhances curricular and extracurricular programs and is consistent with NYIT's core mission to provide career-oriented professional education, offer access to opportunity to all qualified students, and support applications-oriented research that benefits the larger world. I am honored to answer your call and inspire our engineering students to be ready to address the challenges of the 21st century.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nadid", enclosed within a thin rectangular border.

Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D.
Dean

School of Engineering & Computing Sciences
Northern Boulevard, Old Westbury, NY 11568-8000
And 1855 Broadway, suite 805, New York, NY 10023
Phone: (516)686-7931 and 212-261-1674; Email: nanid@nyit.edu