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March 16, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President,


The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) is pleased to provide this letter expressing our intent to develop a NAE Grand Challenge Scholars Program. As one of the nation's largest private schools for both STEM and undergraduate engineering education, we believe that this program can have a profound impact on future generations of engineers.

One particularly important element of our program will be the integration of the liberal arts into the engineering curricula. At RIT we strongly believe that many of today's societal challenges cannot be solved by technology alone, demanding that students educated in technical disciplines acquire a strong, integrative liberal arts education to complement their technical skillsets.

Through the offering of both "engineering-infused liberal arts courses" and "liberal arts-infused engineering courses," our Grand Challenge Scholars Program will produce exceptional engineers who understand the important social, cultural, economic, ethical, and political contexts in which they will work to solve the world's most pressing problems.

We support the NAE Grand Challenge Scholars Program, and we hope this program continues to receive the attention and support from the federal government that it so rightly deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harvey J. Palmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Harvey J. Palmer, Ph.D., P.E.  
Professor and Dean