

University of Central Florida (UCF)  
College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS)  
114 Harris Engineering Center  
Orlando, FL 32816

March 23, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President,

The implementation plan on educating engineers at UCF for the grand challenges involves a **partnership of the Honors College and eli<sup>2</sup>** (engineering leadership and innovation institute) to engage a cohort of Honors students in select joint activities that focus on educating them and involving them in hands-on experiences associated with the 14 NAE grand challenges. After this cohort group (30 sophomores per year) is recruited, they will be involved in activities, such as:

**A creative learning experience connected to the Grand Challenges**, such as research or design projects (facilitated through the Honors in the Major courses and/or the Senior Design courses).

**Authentic experiential learning with clients and mentors** that includes interdisciplinary experience in fields such as public policy, business, law, medicine, ethics, and communications (facilitated through the interdisciplinary Honors courses offered for Honors students and through the Senior Design Capstone Courses).

**Entrepreneurship and innovation experience** such as the start-up of a new venture, dissemination of technology, or coursework in entrepreneurship (facilitated through the certificate and minor leadership and entrepreneurship courses offered by eli<sup>2</sup>; facilitated through the entrepreneurship spaces offered to students through the College of Business's Blackstone Launch Pad, and eli<sup>2</sup>'s Harris Corporation Gathering Lab, Idea Lab, Texas Instruments Innovation Lab and Manufacturing lab).

**Global and cross-cultural perspectives** gained through experiences that promote involvement with globally complex issues in unfamiliar environments, such as a semester abroad (facilitated through the study abroad programs offered by the Honors College and the International Minor study abroad program offered by the College of Engineering and Computer Science).

**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 (facilitated through the many service learning opportunities offered to Honors students by the Honors College and service learning opportunities offered by the CECS through the senior design capstone projects).

Sincerely,  
Michael Georgiopoulos  
Dean, College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS)

