

University of Portland, Shiley School of Engineering
5000 N. Willamette Blvd., Portland, OR 97203

March 23, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President,

Recognizing the urgency to prepare engineering students with the skillset and mindset to be able to solve Grand Challenges over the course of their careers, the University of Portland commits to establishing a program that integrates the following key elements via one or more of the following strategies:

1. A creative learning experience connected to the Grand Challenges such as research or design projects.
 - Senior design project with related theme; Summer REU with related theme; Summer internship with related theme; Directed research project with related theme
2. Authentic experiential learning with clients and mentors that includes interdisciplinary experience in fields such as public policy, business, law, medicine, ethics, and communications.
 - Multidisciplinary senior design project; East Africa Sustainable Development Internship; Summer REU with multidisciplinary team; Summer internship with multidisciplinary team
3. Entrepreneurship and innovation experience such as the start-up of a new venture, dissemination of technology, or coursework in entrepreneurship
 - E-Scholars (entrepreneurship scholars program for juniors); Entrepreneurship minor; Management of Innovation course; 100K Venture Competition; Other entrepreneurial experience to be defined by student
4. Global and cross-cultural perspectives gained through experiences that promote involvement with globally complex issues in unfamiliar environments, such as a semester abroad
 - International senior design project; Native American senior design project; Fall, Spring, or Year abroad; Summer semester abroad; Global engineering elective course; E-Scholars (entrepreneurship scholars program for juniors that includes global immersion); East Africa Internship on Sustainable Development; International REU; Moreau Center Service; International immersion plunge; Student club international immersion project e.g., Engineering World Health, Engineers Without Borders
5. 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
 - Senior design project for non-profit and/or public service clients; Engineering club service project; East Africa Internship on Sustainable Development; Relevant Moreau Center immersion plunges

We will ensure that students in this program have expertise in one or more of these areas and exposure or experience in each of the others, providing opportunities for them to reflect on how such combined capabilities can empower them to become leaders in addressing societal challenges in the U.S. and abroad. We are in the process of formalizing a portfolio program that will allow students to demonstrate their competencies in each of these areas and plan a pilot for the 2015-2016 AY.

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Jones, Dean