



C. D. Mote, Jr.  
*President*

April 27, 2016

Dear Colleague:

Engineers solve problems. From designing and building infrastructure and transportation systems, to developing more advanced cybersecurity solutions, to working on drug delivery systems and tissue engineering, the field of engineering is diverse but often not fully appreciated. The National Academy of Engineering's mission is to advance the well-being of the nation and serve as a national advisor on engineering issues. Your annual support promotes a vibrant engineering profession and educates the public about how engineers contribute to the well-being of society. Please join me in making a gift to the NAE Independent Fund this year.

Your philanthropic support makes so many things possible. You help provide guidance for effective K-12 engineering education, promote engineering ethics at colleges and universities, and make recommendations so that US businesses can prosper in an era of rapid technological change and increased competition. You are also directly supporting efforts to excite kids about engineering, create a community of emerging engineering leaders, and contribute to the education of a new generation of engineers equipped to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing society. Philanthropy underpins our ability to provide leadership on engineering and technology issues, as the following examples attest.

Your support of *EngineerGirl* encourages girls and boys to consider the engineering profession. This fun, interactive platform is designed to engage and excite middle school students, especially girls, and connect them with engineering role models and like-minded students. In a survey of 2015 *EngineerGirl* Essay Contest participants, over 90% of them, and more girls than boys, said the site positively changed their views about engineering or led them to learn something they did not know before. And about 40% of the girls said that viewing the website or participating in the contest caused them to contemplate becoming an engineer. According to one participant, "*I used to think that engineers were the people who fixed cars! EngineerGirl has helped me to understand what an engineer really is.*"

The Frontiers of Engineering (FOE) symposia bring together emerging engineering leaders (ages 30-45) from industry, universities, and government to discuss pioneering research and technical work in various engineering fields and industry sectors. The program introduces these outstanding engineers to each other and facilitates collaboration, the transfer of new techniques and approaches across fields, and contacts among the next generation of engineering leaders. According to one participant:

*FOE was an amazing experience, and I got more out of it than I could have possibly imagined. I left with relationships that are leading to at least four potential research collaborations going forward, in directions I never would have expected. FOE provides a forum for interdisciplinary engineering research that is second to none.*

Your gift to the Independent Fund fosters these collaborations.

The 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering were compiled by an NAE Committee prioritizing big visionary goals, such as providing access to clean water, required to ensure the “Continuation of life on the planet as we know it in this century.” The Grand Challenge Scholars Program (GCSP), established in 2009 and rapidly expanding, is a multidisciplinary curricular and multicultural program designed to prepare well-rounded and technologically capable students to create implementable solutions to problems like these grand challenge goals. The students gain invaluable experience working across disciplines in multicultural, global environments on viable solutions to challenging problems. The GCSP is currently active on 26 campuses, and more than a quarter of the nation’s engineering schools are committed to establishing such programs. Your support is needed to create a new National GCSP Coordinating Office that will expand and sustain these programs. Your philanthropy will also help plan and host the next Global Grand Challenge Summit scheduled for Washington, DC in 2017. Building on the previous two summits, in London (2013) and Beijing (2015), the aim of the 2017 event is to promote international cooperation to creatively address the world’s most pressing issues.

Please contribute to further the engineering profession. The power of the NAE lies in you, our extraordinary members, and your support through both your personal efforts and your philanthropy. Please join me in making a gift to the NAE this year to enable the engineering field to expand its reach. Your contribution and your participation truly make a difference.

I greatly appreciate your involvement and dedication to our work together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Mote". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and the last name "Mote" clearly distinguishable.

C. D. Mote, Jr.

P.S. If you or your spouse will be 70½ or older this year, consider reducing your taxable income and income tax bill by using your IRA charitable rollover to make a gift.