



Gordon W. Day, Ph.D.
2009 IEEE-USA President

December 1, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of more than 210,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals represented by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), I applaud your Educate to Innovate initiatives in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and thank you for the opportunity to be present at the announcement.

Perhaps more than any other profession, engineers and applied technologists create jobs. They are innovators, by talent and through education. Given sufficient financial resources and infrastructure, they will conceive and develop new products and technologies. They will help companies expand and start new ones, creating jobs for more innovators and ratcheting our economy forward. They will, as you said, help Americans continue to be “makers of things, not just consumers of things.”

America has an abundance of young people who have the talent to become innovators, but many of them do not receive the education they need to reach their potential. We agree that moving our students “from the middle to the top,” internationally in STEM education, is essential in assuring the future prosperity of our country. The investments in the Department of Education’s Race to the Top, coupled with the initiatives in Educate to Innovate are important steps. As a professional society, we share your concerns and are enthusiastic about helping address them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon W. Day".