

A Letter to President Obama on Fostering a Generation of Makers

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

June 18, 2014

Dear President Obama:

In recent years, the United States has benefitted from the democratization of the tools needed to design and make just about anything. More Americans have access to 21st century tools such as 3D printers and scanners, computer-aided design software, laser cutters, and computer-numerically controlled machine tools.

Hundreds of thousands of families are participating in Maker Faires, and communities across the country are investing in Makerspaces, FabLabs, and TechShops. Expert Makers are “passing it on” by serving as mentors for young Makers. This is empowering Americans to become producers of things, not just consumers of things. Moreover, the growth of the “Maker Movement” can help advance a number of our shared priorities, such as STEM education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and advanced manufacturing.

As the leaders of colleges and universities, we want to do our part to make the most of these opportunities. As the White House prepares to hold its first-ever Maker Faire, each of our institutions is committed to take one or more of the following steps to promote Making, including:

- Allowing students that are applying for admission to our institutions to submit their Maker portfolio;
- Investing in Makerspaces that are accessible to students across the campus, or serving as “anchor tenants” for commercially-operated Makerspaces;
- Supporting education, outreach and service-learning that is relevant to Making, such as encouraging students to serve as mentors for young Makers;
- Supporting research that advances making technologies and facilitates greater access to making experiences such as the development of new tools for desktop manufacturing;
- Expanding access to university shared facilities and scientific instrumentation to Makers;
- Encouraging students to use their senior design projects to experiment with Making and Maker-preneurship;

- Providing scholarships to students based upon excellence in making.
- Participating in regional efforts to create a vibrant Maker ecosystem that involve companies, investors, skilled volunteers, state and local officials, libraries, museums, schools, after-school programs, labor unions, and community-based organizations.

We are working together to develop a more comprehensive set of steps universities can take and each of our institutions will be developing an outline of our individual commitments to Making. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to advancing U.S. research and education. We look forward to working with you and your Administration to make this effort a huge success.

Signed,

Arizona State University
 Art Center College of Design
 Big Bend Community College
 Boise State University
 Boston University
 Bucknell University
 Bunker Hill Community College
 California College of the Arts
 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
 California State University, Northridge
 Cape Cod Community College
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Case Western Reserve University
 Catawba Valley Community College
 Cerritos College
 Charles S. Mott Community College
 College for Creative Studies
 College of San Mateo
 Columbia University
 Community College of Allegheny County
 Cornell University
 Crafton Hills College
 Cumberland County College
 Cuyahoga Community College
 Duke University
 Eastern Gateway Community College
 Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
 Florida International University
 Folsom Lake College
 Fox Valley Technical College

George Mason University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Green River Community College
 Gulf Coast State College
 Harvard University
 Houston Community College
 Howard University
 Iowa State University
 James Madison University
 Kansas City Art Institute
 Lehigh University
 LeTourneau University
 Lorain County Community College
 Marshall University
 Massachusetts College of Art and Design
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 McLennan Community College
 Michigan State University
 Mississippi State University
 Monroe Community College
 Morehouse College
 Morgan State University
 New York Institute of Technology
 New York University
 North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
 North Carolina State University
 Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
 Northeastern University
 Northern Virginia Community College
 Ohio Northern University
 The Ohio State University
 Oregon College of Art and Craft

Oregon Institute of Technology
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Pennsylvania College of Art and Design
Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania State University Erie, The
Behrend College
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Robert Morris University
Rowan University
Rutgers, The State University of New
Jersey
Saddleback College
San Francisco Art Institute
Santa Clara University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
School of Visual Arts
Sierra College
South Central College
South Mountain Community College
Spelman College
Stanford University
State University of New York at New Paltz
Stevens Institute of Technology
Suffolk County Community College
Sweet Briar College
Tennessee Technological University
Texas A&M University
Texas State University
Tufts University
Tulane University
Tunxis Community College
Union College
Union County College
The University of Akron
The University of Alabama at
Birmingham
The University of Arizona
University at Buffalo, The State University
of New York
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati, College of
Engineering and Applied Science
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of the District Columbia
University of Florida
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
The University of Iowa
University of Louisville
The University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Michigan-Dearborn
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri System
University of New Haven
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame, College of
Engineering
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
University of Portland
University of Southern California, Viterbi
School of Engineering
University of St. Thomas
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Toledo
University of Toronto
The University of Vermont
University of Washington, College of
Engineering
Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Westmoreland County Community College
Wright State University
Yale University
Youngstown State University