

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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