



ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING



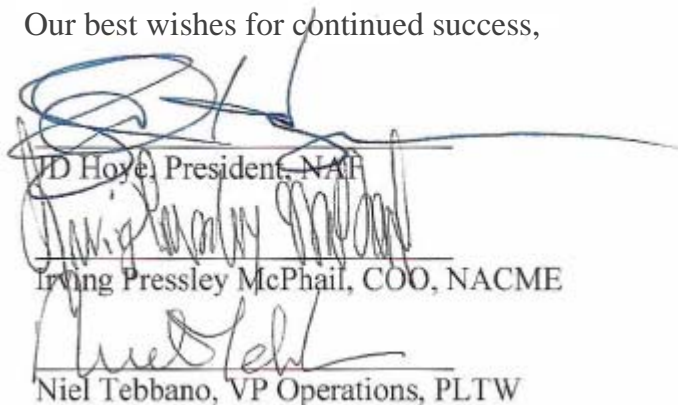
Dear Bart,

The Academy of Engineering (AOE) is a dynamic partnership between the National Academy Foundation (NAF), the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (WACME) and Project Lead The Way; Inc. (PLTW) intended to increase the college readiness of a more diverse group of high school students to succeed in post-secondary engineering study and engineering-related careers. The Steering Committee of the AOE is pleased to endorse the SME-EF Gateway Academy Summer Youth Program which provides a meaningful hands-on project-based, summer engineering experience for under-served middle school youth. Delivered in small group settings, this program encourages problem-solving in a fun, exciting environment using leading edge technologies to expose students to such disciplines as robotics, aeronautics and computer design.

As the partnership for the Academy of Engineering continues to develop and maintain small learning communities focused on preparing a more diverse group of students ready to meet national college readiness and national learning standards for engineering education at the college level, we are delighted to have a program such as this available to our nation's youth.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting a SME-EF Gateway Academy in your locale. In doing so you will be contributing to addressing the need to fill the future workforce pipeline with successful students prepared for rigorous college study and careers in engineering and related STEM fields.

Our best wishes for continued success,



JD Hoye, President, NAF
Irving Pressley McPhail, COO, NACME
Niel Tebbano, VP Operations, PLTW