Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy
Assistant Director
Directorate for Education and Human Resources
The National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dr. Pramod Khargonekar
Assistant Director
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The National Science Foundation
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Dr. Suzi Iacono
Acting Assistant Director
Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering
The National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
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Dear Dr. Ferrini-Mundy, Dr. Khargonekar, and Dr. Iacono,

We applaud your work in continuing to develop the Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles and Engineering courses by collaborating with and convening stakeholders, including the College Board, universities, educators, and industry. This effort recognizes the importance of professional development and rightly creates new opportunities for educators who wish to advance their knowledge in this subject matter and teach these courses.

The United States is a technology-driven society and our capacity for technological innovation is a major source of U.S. economic competitiveness and national security. Engineers are key contributors to technological innovation and engineering employment can be both intellectually and financially rewarding for individual U.S. workers and their families. Engineering knowledge and skills can also be valuable to non-engineers who benefit from using these skill sets in their everyday life and in non-engineering occupations.

In order to meet the increasing demand for technological and engineering competence, as well as equip future generations with the skills they will need to be successful, our nation’s education system needs to instill in our students an awareness and passion for computer science and engineering.

The National Academies has said that K-12 engineering education may contribute to student learning, achievement in science and mathematics, increased awareness of engineering and the
work of engineers, as well as boost youth interest in pursuing engineering as a career, and increase the technological literacy of all students. By developing AP computer science and engineering courses, the NSF is taking an important step forward in continuing the work of integrating these critical fields into K-12 education.

We support the continuation of your efforts in developing AP courses in Engineering and Computer Science with stakeholders, such as the College Board, universities, educators, and industry. Collaborative work on these courses will help ensure students are receiving college-level education and learning concepts applicable in the workforce.

We applaud the NSF’s partnership with the College Board in providing funding for production of the AP Computer Science Principles curriculum framework. We encourage the NSF to similarly invest in the development of an AP Engineering course as well.

Sincerely,

DEREK KILMER  
Member of Congress

LARRY BUCSHON  
Member of Congress

DAN BENISHEK  
Member of Congress

AMI BERA, M.D.  
Member of Congress

DIANE BLACK  
Member of Congress

MADELEINE BORDALLO  
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