NATIONAL ENGINEERING FORUM (NEF) REGIONAL DIALOGUE: ENGINEERING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP
Seattle, WA at the University of Washington
October 14, 2013

Overarching Mission for Year One:

Lockheed Martin, the Council on Competitiveness, and the National Academy of Engineering launched the National Engineering Forum to address three engineering challenges in the United States: the *capacity* of our technical talent to fill current and future jobs, our engineering workforce's *capability* to address 21st century challenges, and our nation's *competitiveness* on the world stage. A series of regional dialogues will create grassroots networks of key influencers from academia, business, government, and the media, as well as students. Sustained input from these groups will make an impact on the NEF agenda, helping turn findings into action. The regional dialogues will culminate in a national cornerstone event.

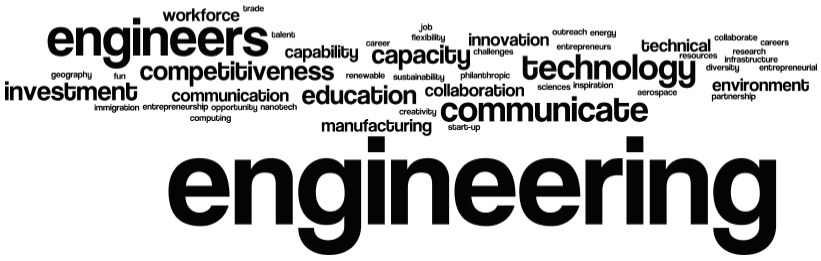
The regional dialogues provide NEF with a nationwide survey of thought leaders, and enable a dynamic view of both the past and current state of engineering based on the expertise of those best positioned to help address the three engineering challenges. These sessions provide a platform for an engaging narrative that appeal to students and engineering professionals alike.

Key themes from the Seattle Dialogue:

A number of leaders from industry, academia and the media participated in the NEF regional dialogue event which was hosted by the University of Washington and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Seattle, Washington. This dialogue reinforced the role of engineering in the Seattle area by discussing the strengths and challenges in the region. This dialogue also explored how to better communicate the importance of engineering for our nation to remain competitive within the global market. The history of the region's success is directly correlated with the success of the universities/colleges and continued development of local industry leaders such as Boeing, Amazon and Microsoft.

Key action items that emerged in the dialogue:

- Emphasize engineers have a high quality of life and industry work-life balance to attract students and professionals to the region.
- Consider engineering's role in managing the balance of natural resource preservation and pursuit of new and existing energy resources.
- Work with corporations and universities/colleges to ensure local and non-resident students receive opportunities within technology industry.
- Champion ways to increase class sizes in engineering programs across the state so as not to discourage or turn-away prospective students.
- Leverage the geography of the region, with expanded opportunities for export/import to Asia.
- Consider ways to engage local students from underprivileged homes and underserved communities where STEM after-school activities may not be socially acceptable.
- Increase regional success stories, industry partnerships, and collaboration with community college/branch campus.
- Focus on empowering K-12 students to join organizations that afford hands-on, applied problem solving experiences with engineering concepts. (i.e. FIRST Robotics).
- Consider ways that businesses can adapt their organizations to accommodate the new generations of engineers such as flex time.



Word Cloud based on discussions on October 14, 2013 in Seattle, WA at the University of Washington.