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**ASEE to Present "President's Award" to the University of Southern California
Viterbi School of Engineering**

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) will present its "President's Award" to the University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering at a plenary session of the organization's annual conference in Columbus, OH, on Monday, June 26. The award will be accepted by Yannis C. Yortsos, dean of the Viterbi School.

ASEE President Louis Martin-Vega will present the award, which recognizes organizations making the best use of media to encourage P-12 students to enter engineering schools and pursue engineering careers and/or influence public opinion and create recognition of the critical role that engineering plays in today's technology-driven society.

The award is presented in honor of efforts by Yortsos and Viterbi to promote ASEE's Deans Diversity Pledge and Yortsos' subsequent presentation to the White House, in August of 2015, of a signed pledge from nearly 150 deans. (As of this writing, the pledge has nearly 210 signatories.) This effort has raised public awareness not only of colleges of engineering throughout the country, but also of the profession's commitment to addressing the challenge of managing diversity in our institutions. Yortsos' own personal time and Viterbi resources were expended to initiate, draft, and circulate the pledge.

"For many years the Viterbi School of Engineering has been a leader in advancing engineering education, particularly in efforts to make it attractive to our best and brightest students and its emphasis on diversity," notes Martin-Vega. Further, he says, "The Viterbi School consistently demonstrates robust outreach efforts in the P-12 arena, encouraging students to consider engineering. This includes but is not limited to programs such as Adopt-a-School, Adopt-a-Teacher; the MESA program; Family Science; and the USC Chevron Frontiers in Energy Research Summer Camp."

Yortsos and the Viterbi School were the co-founders of the Grand Challenges Scholars Program, inspired by the National Academy of Engineering's (NAE) Grand Challenges. This program makes young people aware of engineering's role in solving the challenges facing society and equips them to address these problems. Yortsos and Viterbi co-hosted the first NAE Grand Challenges Summit in 2009 at Duke University, its second Grand Challenges Summit in 2010 at the University of Southern California, and have been engaged at the steering committee level in its global extension that now includes three academies of engineering (NAE, Chinese Academy of Engineering, and the Royal Academy of

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Engineering) and three Global Summits (in London, in 2013, Beijing, in 2015, and Washington, DC in 2017). Yortsos and the Viterbi School have organized the Student Day Business Model Competition, which is a global competition among engineering teams from the three countries and precedes the Global Summit.

Under Yortsos' leadership, the Viterbi School has had a substantial increase in size, quality, and diversity of the school's faculty and its undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. student body; greater retention and graduation rates; a growing number of major national and international faculty awards; and a thriving research program including six national research centers and total multi-year, multi-school funding of close to \$200M. Yortsos championed a concept called Engineering + that positions engineering as the enabling discipline of our times, helps change the conversation about the impact of engineering, and expands the appeal of engineering to a more diverse talent pool. He spearheaded strategic directions for the creation of educational and research programs that respond to the critical needs of the profession, the society, and of global outreach.

ASEE was founded in 1893 and is the only national engineering education organization concerned with all engineering disciplines. ASEE is a leading voice in the community, authoring reports on transforming curriculum and transitioning veterans into engineering careers, among others; managing a large portfolio of fellowships and internships for the federal government; and publishing the world's premier journals on engineering education.

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