



The President

San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-8000
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November 6, 2025

George Youssef, Ph.D.
Department of Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering

Dear George:

Congratulations on receiving a \$376,176 award from the National Science Foundation Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation for your project, "Collaborative Research: Uncovering Ballistic Plasticity and Failure Mechanisms of Elastomeric Polymers."

This important project will uncover the fundamental plastic deformation and failure mechanisms of elastomers under ultrahigh strain rate loading techniques to provide the first scientific evidence of the capacity of elastomeric polymers to undergo plastic deformation at ultrahigh strain rate, which could revolutionize advanced manufacturing techniques and help to mitigate biomechanical impacts.

Thank you for moving SDSU forward as a major public research university and for bringing distinction to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the College of Engineering, and to San Diego State University.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adela de la Torre".

Adela de la Torre, Ph.D.
President

c: William Tong, Provost and Senior Vice President
Hala Madanat, Vice President for Research and Innovation
Eugene Olevsky, Dean, College of Engineering
Patrick Kwon, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering