SEMINAR
Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science

“Technical Leadership: Lessons from an Industry Career”

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Thursday, November 21
2:30 – 3:30 PM
Brauer Hall, Room 12

Abstract

- In academia, professors have the freedom to choose their research areas as long as they can secure funding.
  - What drives innovation and new products in industry and who makes those decisions?

- What is the career trajectory for a scientist/Ph.D. in industry? Will they always stay in design, experiment, and bench work roles or is there potential to transition to other areas of the company?

- What skills and qualities do industry employers seek in PhD hires? Do they seek specific skill sets or broad problem solving abilities in a particular field where they are willing to teach new skills/techniques?

- What is not included in the typical PhD education that industry wants? For students wanting to go into industry, what can we do now to make us more competitive/desirable to an industry employer?

Biography

Dr. Williams holds significant and practical experience in industry, employing both business and technical acumen as a proven business development strategist, operational leader, and technology and innovation manager. From 2012, he held the position of Vice President of Global Engineering at Pall Corp where he led a 750-member engineering unit, driving Pall’s global growth initiatives across its Life Science and Industrial Products business. Prior to Pall, Dr. Williams spent 10 years with Alcoa, Inc. In his role as Senior Director of Research and Development – Alcoa Technology Advantage, he led all facets of business and technology management, including innovation management, portfolio management, market analysis, product development, project management, engineering design, and production operations. Beginning in 1983, Dr. Williams led a nearly 20-year distinguished career at The Boeing Co. where he held a number of significant research and development and program management positions.

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.