



# National Commission for Cooperative Education

Advancing High Quality Cooperative Education on Behalf of NCCE Corporate & Institutional Partners



José Abreu, P.E.  
Class of 1975  
Miami Dade College  
AA, MDC

Nominated by  
Dr. Eduardo J. Padron  
President of Miami Dade College

Mr. José Abreu is the Director of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. He directs the operations at Miami International Airport and four general aviation airports in Miami. Prior to this, Mr. Abreu served as Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) under Governor Jeb Bush. Prior to his position as Secretary, Mr. Abreu served 18 years in progressively senior positions at FDOT, District Six Secretary for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Mr. Abreu has an AA from Miami Dade College and a BS in civil engineering from the University of Miami.

In March 2008, he was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to serve on the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (TTAB), during the Bush Administration.



David W. Allen  
Class of 1983  
Kettering University  
BS, Mechanical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Stanley Liberty  
President of Kettering University

Mr. David W. Allen is the executive vice president of Operations at Del Monte Foods Company. He previously served as senior vice president, Operations and Supply Chain from 2005 to April 2010. Prior to that, Mr. Allen was chief operating officer of U.S. Foodservice, from 2004 to 2005 and was chief executive officer of WorldChain, Inc., a supply chain service company from 2001 to 2004. He served as vice president, Worldwide Operations for Dell Inc. from 1999 to 2000.

Mr. Allen has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Kettering University and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University. Mr. Allen also serves on the board of directors of American Italian Pasta Company.



James Bean  
Class of 1991  
Drexel University  
BS, Accounting and Finance

Nominated by  
Mr. John A. Fry  
President of Drexel University

Mr. Bean is Vice President of Financial Planning & Analysis at Apple Inc. in Cupertino, California. While at Drexel, Mr. Bean held a co-op at KPMG, and he continued working there after graduation until 1995. After leaving KPMG, Mr. Bean was employed by 3Com Corporation and Intelligent Electronics where he held Senior Director positions until joining Apple in 1998. Mr. Bean currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Silicon Valley Financial Management Institute, and on the Board of Trustees of the International School of the Peninsula Board Finance as Finance Chair and Treasurer. Mr. Bean is the latest link in Apple's relationship with Drexel University; when Drexel became the first university to require its students to have computers in the early 1980's, it did so in partnership with Apple.



Kevin D. Belfield  
Class of 1982  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
BS, Chemistry

Nominated by  
Dr. William W. Destler  
President of Rochester Institute of Technology

Kevin D. Belfield received the A.A.S. in Chemical Technology in 1981 and the B.S. in Chemistry in 1982 from Rochester Institute of Technology, where he gained valuable co-op experience at Eastman Kodak Co. and Pennwalt Pharmaceutical Co. along with pursuing undergraduate research with Prof. Terence C. Morrill and Vladimir Vukanovic. He then earned the Ph.D. in Chemistry from Syracuse University in 1988. After conducting research in polymer stabilization and degradation at Ciba-Geigy, he pursued postdoctoral research at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He was then a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University. Dr. Belfield joined the faculty of the Chemistry Department at the University of Detroit Mercy in 1992. He moved to the University of Central Florida's Department of Chemistry in 1998 to establish a program in functional polymer chemistry and organic photonic materials. He has been Chair of the Chemistry Department since November 2004. Dr. Belfield performs research in the area of multiphoton absorbing materials and has over 175 publications.



Robert Bridge  
Class of 1970  
Drexel University  
BS, Business Administration

Nominated by  
Mr. John A. Fry  
President of Drexel University

A successful businessman whose career in the automobile industry spans forty years, Mr. Bridge is President and owner of Bob Bridge Toyota, a car dealership franchise in Washington State. Mr. Bridge has won the Toyota President's Award for customer satisfaction each year from 2002 to 2008. He began his career in the industry as a marketing analyst at Ford's corporate headquarters in Detroit, where he worked as a co-op student for two years. In 1982, his career brought him to Renton, Washington as General Manager of a dealership, which he eventually purchased. He is Past President of the Western Washington Toyota Dealer Advertising Association (WWTDA) and current President of the Washington State Auto Dealers Association (WSADA), and he has served on the WSADA Board of Directors and Executive Committee. A noted Rotarian and philanthropist in his community, Mr. Bridge promotes education through his support of Renton's Community in Schools Program, Renton Reading Buddies Program, the Renton Teacher appreciation awards and the City of Renton Community Scholarship Program.



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Angela Dowd Burton  
Class of 1974 & Class of 1979  
Drexel University  
BS, Accounting & MBA, Finance

Nominated by  
Mr. John A. Fry  
President of Drexel University

Ms. Dowd Burton has served in positions of increasing responsibility including global roles in finance, procurement, business development, commercial management, and government relations. In 2010, she was appointed by Mayor Michael Nutter to serve as Executive Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity for the City of Philadelphia. She is responsible for leveraging the business services of the Commerce Department to strengthen the capacity of minority, women and disabled-owned businesses to successfully contract for an equitable share of the \$300 Billion regional GDP. Ms. Dowd-Burton joined Dow Chemical (Rohm and Haas) in 1990 after serving as Deputy Director of Finance and Procurement Commissioner for the City of Philadelphia. She has received numerous awards and acknowledgments including the Drexel University Harriet E. Worrell Award, The Philadelphia Business Journal Woman of Distinction Award, two Rohm and Haas Vice President's Awards, and The Philadelphia Bowl awarded by Mayor W.W. Goode. Ms. Dowd Burton credits her career success to the education she received at Drexel University and the cooperative educational experience that helped her to develop her competitive advantage.



Blair Christie  
Class of 1994 and Class of 1998  
Drexel University  
BS, Marketing & MBA, Business Admin.

Nominated by  
Mr. John A. Fry  
President of Drexel University

Ms. Christie is the Senior Vice President for Corporate Communications at Cisco Systems, the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. At Cisco, she holds responsibility for leading the company's global investor relations, public and media relations, industry analyst relations, employee and executive communications, and global studio and Web 2.0/Intranet Strategy teams. In 2005, Treasury Risk and Management recognized Ms. Christie as one of "The Top 40 Under 40" U.S. financial executives to watch. Under Christie's leadership, Cisco's Corporate Communications group was founded in 2006 and she has since grown the organization into an industry leader. In 2008 Cisco received the "Silver Quill Excellence Award" from the International Association of Business Communicators and four "Inspire Awards" from the League of American Communications Professionals. Ms. Christie was the cover story for the May 2009 issue of Working Mother magazine, which described how she balances her career with raising a young family. While at Drexel, Ms. Christie held a co-op position at PECO, the largest electric and natural gas utility in Pennsylvania.



Bianca Cruz  
Class of 2010  
LaGuardia Community College  
BS, Business Management

Nominated by  
Dr. Gail Mellow  
President of LaGuardia Community College

As a Business Management major at LaGuardia Community College, Bianca Cruz believed working as an intern at the Holiday Inn / LaGuardia Airport would give her not only sales and marketing experience but assist in clarifying her career goals. The Holiday Inn hired Bianca as their Social Media Manager upon completion of her internship. Under the direction of the hotel's marketing manager, Bianca projects the voice of the hotel using social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Bianca has graduated from LaGuardia and in Fall 2010 will continue her education to achieve a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Bianca credits her internship with influencing her career direction and reinforcing her dream to one day open her own hotel.



N. John DiNardo, PhD  
Class of 1975  
Drexel University  
BS, Physics

Nominated by  
Mr. John A. Fry  
President of Drexel University

Dr. DiNardo is Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Physics at Drexel University, where he serves on the President's Executive Council. He has served as Vice Provost since 2005 and was previously Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2003. After being awarded a PhD in Physics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1982 and being employed as a Postdoctoral Fellow at IBM Research, Dr. DiNardo joined Drexel's Department of Physics in 1984 as an Assistant Professor and began a research program in experimental surface science that expanded to nanoscience and biophysics. He is the author of over 50 refereed papers in surface and interface science, several book chapters, and the monograph, Nanoscale Characterization of Surfaces and Interfaces. Dr. DiNardo's co-ops at Philco-Ford and at the Philadelphia Electric Company not only complemented his physics coursework, but also taught him to work independently and in teams on interesting projects that broadened his professional experience and provided a context to study experimental physics in graduate school.



Ralph Dumke  
Class of 1979  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Civil Engineering Technology

Nominated by  
Dr. Zorica Pantic  
President of Wentworth Institute of Technology

Ralph Dumke is president and CEO of Waterline Industries, a company he founded out of his garage with a pickup truck and a shovel just 15 days after the stock market crash in 1987. Waterline Industries has since expanded to include Waterline Services and Waterline Alternative Energies. Dumke, who was at Wentworth the first year that the Institute offered the co-op program, became such a valuable asset during his co-op experience that the company offered him full-time employment. In 2009, Waterline Industries installed the first desalination plant in New England, taking salt water from the Palmer River, in Swansea, Massachusetts, and turning it into drinking water. The project totaled \$16 million and is only one of four similar projects on the East Coast. Dumke is a member of the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) and American Water Works Association (AWWA). He makes sure there are always Wentworth co-ops and graduates on the Waterline payroll since the first employee, a Wentworth graduate, is still one of the best employees.



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Dr. Kurt Fletcher  
Class of 1987  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
BS, Physics

Nominated by  
Dr. William W. Destler  
President of Rochester Institute  
of Technology

Dr. Kurt Fletcher earned associates degrees from Jamestown Community College and transferred to RIT. At RIT Dr. Fletcher earned a B.S. in Physics in 1987 and – more importantly – met a biology student named Leah, who became his wife in 1989. At RIT Kurt and Leah were active in the RIT Singers and in musical theatre. They both earned Ph.D.'s from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where Kurt worked with Dr. Ed Ludwig on a project investigating polarization effects in nuclear physics experiments. Since 1993 Dr. Fletcher has been a faculty member at the State University of New York at Geneseo. He is currently a Professor of Physics and the Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Fletcher has been awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Geneseo Alumni Association Professorship, and the Harter Faculty Mentor Award. He's received funding to conduct undergraduate research projects from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and Laboratory for Laser Energetics, as well as other agencies, and he publishes his work in a variety of journals.



Richard Flynn  
Class of 1984  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Business, Accounting

Nominated by  
Dr. Gregory H. Williams  
President of University of  
Cincinnati

Prior to forming Flynn & Company, Inc., Richard Flynn served on the professional staff of two international accounting firms. He has more than 21 years of experience in providing auditing, consulting, and tax services to businesses. He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and is a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Flynn is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Tri-state League of Financial Institutions, and the Financial Managers Society. He is a panel member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants CPA Biz2Biz. Mr. Flynn is an advisor to the boards of various local non-profit organizations and the accounting departments of two universities.



William H. Gerstenmaier  
Class of 1981  
University of Toledo  
Masters, Mechanical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Lloyd Jacobs  
President of University of Toledo

William H. Gerstenmaier obtained his master's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Toledo in 1981. He was a semi-finalist in the selection for NASA Astronaut Group 10, and first served as manager of Space Shuttle Program Integration, and then went on to serve as head of the Orbital Maneuvering Vehicle Operations Office. He then became Director of Space Shuttle and Space Station Freedom Assembly Operations, and was named Chief of the Projects and Facilities Branch of the Flight Design and Dynamics Division. He was later named Deputy Manager of the International Space Station Program and went on to become Associate Administrator for Space Operations, as well as appointed program manager of the International Space Station Office at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, with his appointment as associate administrator for Space Operations at NASA Headquarters in Washington in 2005.



Sherman J. Glass, Jr.  
Class of 1971  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
BS and Masters, Chemical  
Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. G.P. "Bud" Peterson  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Sherman Glass is President of ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company and Vice President of Exxon Mobil Corporation. In this capacity, Mr. Glass is responsible for ExxonMobil's global refining, supply and transportation activities. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Glass was Senior Vice President of ExxonMobil Chemical Company, responsible for ExxonMobil's global olefins, aromatics, intermediates and synthetics businesses. He joined Humble Oil (subsequently Exxon) in 1972 as a process engineer at the Baytown, Texas Refinery after receiving both a bachelor's (Co-op) and masters degree in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Tech. Post Exxon's merger with Mobil, Mr. Glass became Regional Director for ExxonMobil's refining, supply and distribution activities in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. In 2001, Mr. Glass became head of Corporate Planning for ExxonMobil and in 2002 he was named President of ExxonMobil Global Services Company. Mr. Glass has been active in civic and business associations. He is a past Chairman of the Baytown Texas Chamber of Commerce, past Vice-Chairman of the Houston Business Roundtable and a past president of the Baytown Rotary Club. He continues to be active at his Alma Mater, Georgia Tech and in 1993 was named its "Distinguished Alumnus" by the Houston Georgia Tech Alumni Club. He has been active in the National Petroleum Refiner's Association (NPRA), the American Chemistry Council (ACC), the National Association of Manufacturers and the API.



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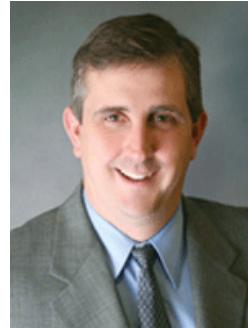
Advancing High Quality Cooperative Education on Behalf of NCCE Corporate & Institutional Partners



Mehmet Gurs  
Class of 1993  
Johnson & Wales University  
AS, Hotel Restaurant  
Management  
BS, Hotel, Restaurant and  
Institutional Management  
  
Nominated by  
Dr. John A. Yena  
Chairman of Johnson & Wales  
University



Chet Huber  
Class of 1977  
Kettering University  
BS, Mechanical Engineering  
  
Nominated by  
Dr. Stanley Liberty  
President of Kettering University



Bryan L. Kelley  
Class of 1992  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Business, Accounting  
  
Nominated by  
Dr. Gregory H. Williams  
President of University of  
Cincinnati



Adam W. Korzun  
MS, RD, CSSD  
Class of 2003  
Johnson & Wales University  
BS, Culinary Arts Nutrition  
  
Nominated by  
Dr. John A. Yena  
Chairman of Johnson & Wales  
University



Paul Langill  
Class of 1991  
University of Waterloo  
BA, Chartered Accountancy  
Studies  
Masters, Accounting  
  
Nominated by  
Dr. David Johnston  
President of University of  
Waterloo

With six restaurants dotted throughout Istanbul and the chic resort towns that ring the coast, a catering company, cookbooks and even TV cooking shows of his own, the Finnish-born über-chef and his food have risen to iconic status not only in his father's homeland, but across the world. With rave reviews from The New York Times, Travel & Leisure and Condé Nast Traveler's "Hot Tables," among many others, Gürs is enjoying international stardom for his inventive Swedish-Mediterranean cuisine.  
"Do what you love, love what you do," Gürs says when asked about his entrepreneurial and creative spark. "It's really that simple — and, of course, make sure that you've learned something new each day."

Despite his demanding schedule, Gürs has managed to remain active with the Istanbul community. Each month he hosts a class of underprivileged kids in one of his restaurants and treats them to lunch and a film. He also participates in a UNICEF program called "Unichef," where proceeds from his restaurants each Mother's Day are used to build preschool classes for five-year-olds.

As a student at JWU, he enjoyed his internship at the Conrad Istanbul Hotel where he gained experience in banquet sales and the pastry kitchen.

CharChet Huber recently retired as President of OnStar Corporation, a subsidiary of General Motors. Chet was the founding President of OnStar and helped shape and grow this popular new technology during its first decade of service. He held a variety of roles during his 27-year career with General Motors. He has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and an honorary degree in Engineering from Kettering University. He also has two master's degrees: one from Harvard University and an MS degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He has served on the Board of Directors for XM Satellite Radio, Inc., and the Federal Advisory Committee for the Center for Disease Control's Injury Prevention and Control.

Bryan has over 17 years of financial leadership in accountancy roles in real estate, construction and manufacturing firms. He is a Certified Public Accountant in Ohio. Bryan started his career at an International Public Accounting firm then moved into the Corporate Controller role at Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate and Schumacher Dugan Construction. Prior to joining Neyer Properties, where he is the VP of Finance and Administration, he was AVP of Finance at Reading Rock, Inc.

Adam Korzun joined the US Ski and Snowboard sports science team as the full time sport dietitian, working with all of the Teams at the Center of Excellence in Park City, Utah. He focuses his efforts on proper fueling, nutrient timing and periodization to optimize every athlete's health and performance throughout the season. Before joining US Ski and Snowboard, Adam worked for 3 years with the US Olympic Committee where he used his culinary nutrition experience to ensure that all athletes, whether at one of the three Olympic Training Centers, traveling internationally or competing at the Olympic Games had the right nutrition available to fuel for performance and success. At JWU, Adam completed a culinary internship at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston, MA and a nutrition internship working in community health and wellness at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island. He also attended graduate school at Boston University, where he received his Masters degree in Nutrition with a focus in exercise physiology.

Paul Langill is a highly respected leader in the financial industry. Now Senior Vice President - Trading Risk with TD Bank Financial Group, Paul also served as Chief Financial Officer for TD Securities. He is currently a member of TD Securities' Management Committee and plays a key role on the firm's senior leadership team. He was honoured as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 in 2007. Paul is also a strong supporter of cooperative education, and has championed a co-op recruitment strategy within TD's Risk Management Group. This strategy has provided hundreds of Waterloo students from the Faculties of Arts, Engineering and Mathematics with meaningful workplace experience.

Since 2007, Paul has served on Waterloo's School of Accounting and Finance advisory council and has helped to guide the finance program's development. His encouragement and industry insights have contributed immeasurably to preparing Waterloo students for careers in the financial sector.



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John A. Malvaso  
Class of 1978  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
BS, Electrical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. William W. Destler  
President of Rochester Institute  
of Technology

John formed FSI Systems in 1984 to develop microcontroller based products and now has 25 employees continuing in product development for OEM companies. John and FSI developed their first standard product, PhoenixSentry, in 2004, in the area of Internet based telemetry monitoring. Prior to FSI, John worked at General Motors and National Semiconductor. He holds three patents and is a member of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. John is the chairman of the Farmington Business Council and is a member of the Ontario County Economic Development Committee.

"The co-op experience at RIT is priceless - it readies you for what you will get into when you graduate. It helps you direct your interest into the right field and it gives you exposure to employers where you could spend at least part of your career. I seriously doubt that any graduate who has gone through their co-op requirements would ever get into their career and say, 'it wasn't what I thought it would be like'."



Lori Pleva  
Class of 1996  
Johnson & Wales University  
BS, Advertising &  
Communication

Nominated by  
Dr. John A. Yena  
Chairman of Johnson & Wales  
University

Lori Pleva '96 is a sourcing manager for Digital Media & IT for NBC Universal. She's responsible for strategic sourcing, supplier negotiations and contracting for digital media products and services. Lori has held sourcing positions with Fortune 100 companies such as GE Capital and JPMorganChase. Recently, Lori reduced NBC Universal's digital advertising cost by 50 percent, resulting in significant capital and expense savings. "I could not be where I am today without passion for what I do... My job directly impacts the company's bottom line and mitigates risk for the business." Her leadership role in Sigma Delta Tau Sorority was a starting point a lifetime of learning and experiences in the disciplines of loyalty, leadership, teamwork, negotiation and conflict resolution. Her JWU internship experience at The Public Education Fund helped her to recognize her abilities and the skills that she was lacking and taught her "you don't know what you don't know – learn from those around you."



Aqua Y. Porter  
Class of 1984  
Kettering University  
BS, Mechanical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Stanley Liberty  
President of Kettering University

Aqua Y. Porter is currently the vice president of Strategic Projects & Business Results and Corporate Lean Six Sigma Operations for Xerox Corporation. Aqua has worked for Xerox for more than 20 years. Prior to her current role, she was vice president of Production Systems Manufacturing Resource Team, and Worldwide Production Systems Manufacturing at Xerox. She holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Kettering University and a master's degree in Business Administration from the Rochester Institute of Technology. She has been active in her community and sits on several area boards. She has been honored with many awards in her career, most recently nominated for the "Athena Award," and she is a corporate director for Master Black Belt Strategic Projects and Training.



Earl F. Riopelle  
Class of 1937  
Kettering University  
BS, Mechanical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Stanley Liberty  
President of Kettering University

Earl F. Riopelle (1914-2005) was a 1937 graduate of Kettering University/GMI and had the distinction of being a co-op student for Charles "Boss" Kettering in the General Motors Research Labs. Riopelle was employed at General Motors for 40 years. In 1948, he shared a patent for improvements to a T.C. VanDeGrit Balancing Machine. Upon his death in 2005, he was honored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for his many accomplishments as an active member since 1955. His wife, Lanice, died in 2006. The couple had lived in Fort Worth, Texas. Upon their deaths, the Earl and Lanice Riopelle Fund at Kettering was established, which will support graduate and continuing education opportunities for engineers in business and industry in perpetuity.



Oscar Robertson  
Class of 1960  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Business, Business  
Admin.

Nominated by  
Dr. Gregory H. Williams  
President of University of  
Cincinnati

During his professional sports career spanning 14 years, Oscar Robertson, known as "The Big O," was hailed as basketball's "most complete player." A Hall of Fame basketball player and named as one of the 5 greatest players of all time by the National Basketball Association (NBA). Even before his professional career began, Robertson co-captained the 1960 undefeated U. S. Olympic Basketball Team, which won a gold medal. Before that, at the University of Cincinnati, where he earned the name, "The Big O," he led the Bearcats to the Final Four twice. His penchant for superb teamwork and leadership has spilled over into Robertson's 25 plus-year career in business, affording him success after success with every new enterprise he has started. If a company is associated with the name Oscar Robertson, it stands for service, quality and commitment to its customers, its employees and its alliance partners. Some of the other companies that Robertson owns, in addition to Oscar Robertson Solutions, Oscar Robertson Foods, Inc. and Oscar Robertson & Associates. He is on the boards of or an advisor to at least 10 other companies.



# National Commission for Cooperative Education

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Kyle Schwulst  
Class of 2002  
Kettering University  
BS, Electrical Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Stanley Liberty  
President of Kettering University

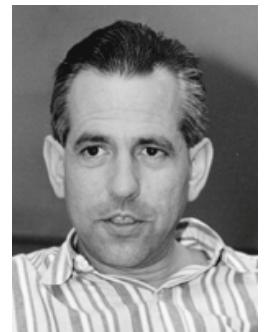
Kyle Schwulst is the founder and CEO of ElectroJet, Inc., in Brighton, Mich. He holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Kettering University. Kyle was honored with Kettering's Young Alumni Award in 2008 for his significant entrepreneurial contributions and marked success at a young age. He has taken his company from a pole-barn operation to a burgeoning, international engineering firm that is creating products and jobs to meet the needs of a global market. Kyle holds five U.S. patents, three of which are for ElectroJet technologies. Kyle continually brokers deals to expand and grow his company and secure funding to support projects that will be valuable to future world market needs. He has already received a number of statewide awards for his achievements.



Ira M. Taffer, PhD  
Class of 1979 and Class of 1983  
Drexel University  
BS, Chemistry and PhD,  
Chemistry

Nominated by  
Mr. John A. Fry  
President of Drexel University

Dr. Taffer is a scientist and an entrepreneur who joined forces with a fellow Drexel alumnus to co-found BIOMOL International in 1983. BIOMOL made research products for the basic medical research market and enjoyed increasing success for twenty-five years. In 2008, BIOMOL was sold to Enzo Biochem, Inc. and Dr. Taffer continues to work for the company as the Vice President of Operations for its Enzo Life Sciences International subsidiary. As a chemistry major at Drexel, Dr. Taffer had three co-op assignments at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Eastern Regional Research Center. These co-op experiences exposed him to many aspects of science and confirmed his commitment to chemistry for his career. Dr. Taffer is an active Drexel alumnus who serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board and on the Alumni Board of Governors. He has made several generous gifts to the University in honor of his favorite chemistry professor.



John Vetere  
Class of 1978 and Class of 1981  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Building Construction Technology  
Civil Engineering

Nominated by  
Dr. Zorica Pantic  
President of Wentworth Institute of Technology

John P. Vetere completed his first co-op as an engineering aide for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) in 1978. From 1979-1989, Vetere worked as an operations/maintenance manager in wastewater transport systems (CSO facilities, pumping stations, and sewer interceptors). Vetere was MWRA superintendent of the Deer Island Sewerage Treatment Plant from 1989-1997, managing the start-up of the new facilities while maintaining the existing primary plant. A multibillion-dollar facility forged by a federal mandate to clean Boston Harbor, Deer Island is an engineering marvel. The facility is a Pure Oxygen Activated Sludge process with anaerobic digestion of all sludge. The resulting methane is used to generate both electricity and heat. The digested sludge is processed into a fertilizer and is reused as a soil conditioner, fertilizer, and presently being examined as a fuel supplement. The plant is capable of treating 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day from 43 Greater Boston communities. The average daily flow is 360 million gallons per day. In 1997 the MWRA promoted Vetere to director of its Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, a position he still holds today. Vetere is a Board Certified Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, grade 7-c full /active.