

Engineer of Distinction

Tennessee Technological University



Chris Privon

B.S. Mechanical Engineering,
Tennessee Technological University, 1979

M.B.A. Dardin School of Business
University of Virginia, 1983

**Vice President, Hewlett Packard (Ret.),
Image and Printing Services Group**



Chris is a 1979 graduate in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Tech. He earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia in 1983 and then joined Hewlett Packard in Boise, Idaho. He experienced a wide variety of engineering and business leadership assignments with the LaserJet and DeskJet Printer businesses over his career and was Vice President of Imaging and Printing Group Services at the time of his retirement in 2009.

Chris and his wife Keron, also a TTU alumnus, have supported the College of Engineering over the years through the Chris and Keron Privon Endowment and currently serve on strategic planning teams and the Dean's Advisory Council for the TTU College of Engineering. Chris encourages students to take courses in business and non-technical subjects in order to broaden their horizons and discover their interests. "The college's focus is to prepare future engineers to solve societal problems; to become Renaissance Engineers" Chris said. "When we inspire students to work on important problems, to learn to talk with people and understand their issues, then they can contribute to society in a very fundamental and positive way. Engineering empowers people and gives them the capability of using technology to solve problems. An engineer must first imaginatively understand their customer's needs and then be creative in developing a solution that works. Engineering becomes a creative endeavor rather than a math and science discipline." Chris gives credit for his success to Dr's Sissom, Griggs and his other professors at Tech who encouraged him to develop and expand his communication skills and to connect them to his engineering education. He says "Their recognition of my interpersonal skills created an interest in the marketing and business aspects of my engineering education leading to my career path and the success I had at Hewlett-Packard."

Chris is active in the Boise community serving on numerous Boards including The Ore-Ida Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Chair for Ballet Idaho and Semilla Nueva. He was the Vice-Chair for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games hosted in Idaho. He and his wife Keron co-chair the Stewardship Council at St. Mark's Catholic Church. He is an accomplished woodworker, often offering his skills to community organizations. In addition to woodworking, Chris enjoys golf, skiing and traveling with Keron.

Chris and Keron have 3 sons and a daughter-in-law, George, Peter and Katy and Chris II.