

1986 Engineer of Distinction



Lawrence E. Swanson

B.S. Civil Engineering, TPI, 1962
M.S. Systems Engineering, TTU, 1968

Vice President, Commercial Unitary
Carrier Corporation
McMinnville, Tennessee

Citation

Lawrence E. Swanson graduated from Red Bank High School near Chattanooga, Tennessee. He earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 1962. He later returned to receive a master's degree in Systems Engineering in 1968. While working on his master's degree, he was a member of the Tennessee Tech faculty as an instructor in the Electrical Engineering Department.

Mr. Swanson served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1966 with tours in both Europe and Vietnam.

He joined Carrier Air Conditioning Company in 1968 as a Systems Analyst member of the team to start up a new facility near McMinnville, Tennessee. He later served as the Production Control Manager and Materials Manager at that plant.

Mr. Swanson was named Plant Manager for Carrier's McMinnville plant in 1977 and, in 1985, was promoted to the position of Vice President for Commercial Unitary Operations. In this position, he has the responsibility for manufacturing facilities in Tyler, Texas, and McMinnville, Tennessee. The plants, under Mr. Swanson's leadership, produce the largest sales volume of packaged commercial air conditioning in the world.

During his leadership in manufacturing, Carrier Commercial products have grown to be the predominant leader in market share and profitability. Under his direction, the Commercial manufacturing facilities have earned the reputation for quality products, delivered on time, at competitive costs.

A significant share of products which Mr. Swanson is responsible for is exported, and he has represented Carrier in locations around the world. These have included Russia and other European countries, the Mid-East and Far-East, as well as Canada and Mexico.

His management style has been widely recognized because of his particular interest and success in the areas of employee involvement, participative management and management development. He is known as a practitioner as well as a student of management and leadership and is often called on as a public speaker on these topics.

He has been an active member of the Board of Engineering Advisors at Tennessee Tech since December 1979 and has been a strong supporter of University programs.

Mr. Swanson is a member of the McMinnville Rotary Club and the Board of Directors of the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, where he now serves as Vice President. He is currently serving his third term on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Manufacturers and Taxpayers Association. He is also a member of the Upper Cumberland Private Industry Council. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of Boyd Christian School in McMinnville. He is a member of Westwood Church of Christ in McMinnville.



Engineer of Distinction Larry Swanson receives his citation from TTU President Wallace Prescott