

1997 Engineer of Distinction



Hal O. Jones

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, TPI, 1965
M.S. Mechanical Engineering, Clemson, 1967
M.S. Business Administration, University of Tennessee, 1974

Director, Engineering and Construction
Tennessee Eastman Division
Eastman Chemical Company
Kingsport, Tennessee

Citation

Hal O. Jones is Director of the Engineering and Construction Division of Eastman Chemical Company at the Kingsport site. A native of Kingsport, Tennessee, he graduated in mechanical engineering from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in 1965, earned a master's in mechanical engineering from Clemson University in 1967 and Master's in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee in 1974. Hal served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 as an officer in the Ordnance Corps.

Hal joined Eastman as a Mechanical Engineer in the Tennessee Eastman Research Laboratories in 1969. His initial assignments included pilot plant design, pressure vessel design and inspection as well as management of capital projects. In 1974, he was appointed Manager, Energy Conservation Program for Tennessee Eastman Company. He returned to Research in 1977 and served in various leadership roles there until 1983.

In 1983, he was appointed Manager for Materials Handling Engineering in the Company's Engineering Division. He subsequently held department manager positions in technology application and capital project execution with contract engineering firms. During this time, he was a leader in the implementation of quality management in both Eastman and supplier organizations. Hal was appointed Director, Engineering Projects, in 1989 with responsibility for design and execution of capital projects at several domestic sites representing an annual capital program of more than \$200 million.

In early 1991, Hal was appointed Project Director of the Fiber Grade Acetate Project, a joint venture between Eastman and Rhone-Poulenc. The multimillion dollar, world-class facility was designed to produce cellulose acetate using a combination of process technologies from both companies. The project team, which included members from Eastman, Rhone-Poulenc and Fluor Daniel, completed the work ahead of schedule and under budget and the facility has operated successfully.

During 1992, he was appointed Director, Engineering and Construction Division, a unit with about 500 employees, over 250 of them degreed professionals—mostly engineers. He provides leadership for six departments that are responsible for capital planning, capital project execution, technical support for facilities worldwide, and technology development for selected manufacturing and engineering processes. In addition, the Division serves as an entry point for new engineers and as a source of technical and managerial talent for other parts of the Company. Hal has continued to be a leader in the application of quality management to both Eastman and supplier processes.

Hal's career has included professional service at many levels. He has been the Chair of the Holston Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and served on regional and national committees for that organization. He is a Past Director of the Upper East Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and a Past Division Chair and Board Member of the Engineering and Construction Contracting Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. During the late 1980's, Hal served as an Instructor in Total Quality Management for the National Society of Professional Engineers. In 1996, he was recognized as Outstanding Engineer of the Upper East Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers. Currently, Hal serves on the Board of Advisors of the Construction Industry Institute and the Board of Engineering Advisors at Tennessee Tech.

Hal's community service has included leadership roles in Sertoma, United Way and Boy Scouts. He is currently a member of the Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce and the Kingsport Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on government effectiveness. Hal and his wife, the former Anita Davis, have been very active in their local church in service and leadership roles.

Both of Hal's daughters and his son-in-law are Tennessee Tech graduates. The family's association with the University is a source of pride for both him and his family members.



1997 Engineers of Distinction Hal Jones (left) and Terry Boston