

2009 Technologist of Distinction



Spurgeon J. Smith, Jr.

B.S. Industrial Technology, TTU, 1983

M.S. Engineering Technology, Murray State University, 1995

Corporate Environmental Director
Site Environmental Leader for Paris facility
Tecumseh Products Company

Citation

Spurgeon J. "Jason" Smith earned the Bachelor of Science degree in industrial technology from Tennessee Technological University (1983) and the Master of Science degree in engineering technology at Murray State University (1995). He continued his education in business management, information systems and environmental technology at several institutions which include Purdue University, the University of Tennessee, the University of Tennessee at Martin, Middle Tennessee State University and Itawamba Community College.

From 1983 through 1986, he accepted employment at the Heil Company, Fort Payne, Alabama. He oversaw cost justifying CNC punching and laser cutting equipment and the implementation of this equipment into the fabrication department. His programming work improved productivity, reduced material waste and subsequently eliminated wasteful spending.

In 1986 and 1987, he worked at Powermatic, Inc., in McMinnville, Tennessee, as a manufacturing engineer and at Delta International Machinery Corporation in Tupelo, Mississippi, as an industrial engineer.

From 1987 through 1991, Jason joined the team at Magnatek Century Electric, McMinnville, Tennessee, as an industrial engineer where he converted label making from a die set operation to an automated process. The automation improved packaging and productivity.

He joined Tecumseh Products Company in Paris, Tennessee, as an industrial engineer in 1991 where he now serves as Corporate Environmental Director and Site Environmental Manager. Significant accomplishments at the Tecumseh Products Company include a variety of cost reductions. These were achieved through the automation of motor identification, the removal of tons of material from the landfill by recycling, the conversion of 95 percent of disposable packing to returnable containers, the reduction of hazardous waste generation by 94 percent, and the 100 percent increase of machinery secondary containment. He received two Tennessee Association of Business awards in 1993—one in Excellence in solid Waste Management and one for Overall Environmental Excellence.

In the local community Jason serves on the TTU Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Department Advisory Board and the Board of Directors for the West Tennessee Regional Blood Center (Jackson, Tennessee). He works with the local Henry County 4-H and is a Deacon at the Eastwood Church of Christ (Paris, Tennessee). He and his wife Sandi (a graduate of TTU, 1983 and 1991) have two children, Katherine and Jonathan. As a hobby they operate a small farm outside of Paris, Tennessee, where they garden, raise poultry, have 4-H swine, and grow field crops.



Jason Smith is congratulated by Dr. Wallace Prescott and Dean Emeritus James Seay Brown