

1995 Engineer of Distinction



John F. Webb

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, TPI, 1965

Superintendent, Power & Services Division
Eastman Chemical Company
Kingsport, Tennessee

Citation

John F. Webb is Superintendent of Power & Services Division of Eastman Chemical Company at the Tennessee Eastman plant site. A native of Millersville, Tennessee, Mr. Webb graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in 1965. He joined Eastman as a staff engineer in the Power & Services Division upon graduation.

Mr. Webb has distinguished himself and his alma mater during his career with Eastman. His early assignments consisted of power and utility system reliability and efficiency improvement projects. Early in his career, he was selected to serve in various supervisory roles within the Division.

In 1974, Mr. Webb was appointed Project Manager for utilities and support facilities for engineering and construction at Arkansas Eastman. The project involved soil and foundation studies, site preparation, and all utilities and support facilities for a Greenfield chemical manufacturing plant. As the project was completed, responsibility was shifted to checkout, training, start-up, and operation of utilities.

In late 1987, Mr. Webb returned to Tennessee Eastman as Assistant Superintendent, Power & Services, with responsibility for project management for the wastewater treatment facility project. The wastewater treatment facility is a 27-million-gallon-per-day, aboveground, hazardous waste treatment facility with a cost of \$80 million dollars.

During 1992, Mr. Webb was appointed Superintendent, Power & Services Division, a unit with about 600 employees—over 540 of them degreed engineers. He manages four departments that are responsible for operation and maintenance required to provide all utilities, incinerate all waste, and manage landfill operations for Tennessee Eastman Manufacturing Divisions. This includes planning for and providing human and capital resources for current and future demands. All of this must be accomplished in an environmentally-safe manner, meeting ever-changing environmental regulations. He is especially supportive of the research mission of his division in addition to the problem solving aspects in day-to-day operations.

John is well-known as an effective mentor of cooperative education students and junior engineers at Eastman. He always encourages them to grow professionally in order to meet future challenges. On numerous occasions, he has returned to his alma mater to present seminars and special lectures to our ME undergraduates.

In addition to his company responsibilities, John has maintained heavy involvement with his family, church, community, and TTU. Both Linda and John are alumni of Tennessee Tech, and for several semesters all three of their children were Tech students. Mr. Webb has served as a youth Sunday school teacher for many years in addition to other church-related responsibilities. He was appointed by Governor Clinton to serve on Hazardous Waste Technical Advisory Committees in Arkansas to write state hazardous waste regulations and to recommend solutions for remediation of a major superfund site. He has served as a board member for the White River Medical Center and as a member of a local school board in Arkansas. He is currently a member of the Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce.



John Webb receives his award from Dr. Sastry Munukutla (left) and Dean George Swisher