

Rutgers School of Engineering

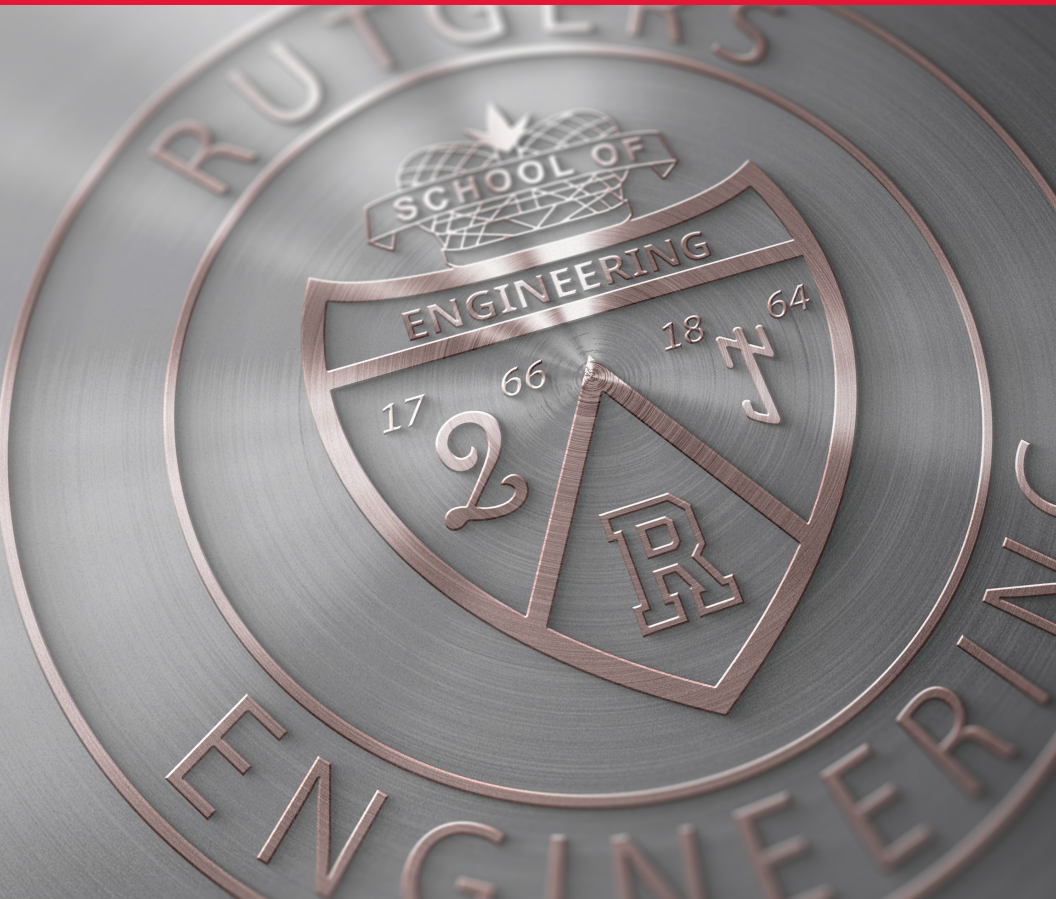
MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER

September 26, 2024

RICHARD WEEKS HALL OF ENGINEERING

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Rutgers University School of Engineering

Established in 1864, the School of Engineering at Rutgers University—New Brunswick is home to educational opportunity and innovation, the foundation upon which work of enormous relevance to society and the economy is made possible through world-class research and important industry partnerships. With seven academic departments representing key engineering disciplines, world-renowned faculty, and groundbreaking research centers, the School of Engineering is recognized around the world as comprehensive and leading-edge, training the next generation of innovators across a broad spectrum of professions.



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Medal of Excellence and Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Medal of Excellence and Distinguished Alumni Awards were established by the School of Engineering in 2006. The awards are presented annually and recognize alumni who are distinguished in their profession and for their service to the school and the community. Nominations are accepted each year and recipients are selected by an awards committee that includes School of Engineering faculty members and deans. Beginning in 2024, the School of Engineering began recognizing corporate support as influential in student success, research advancement, and philanthropy.

Rutgers Engineering Alumni Distinguished Engineer Award

The Distinguished Engineer Award, established by the Rutgers Engineering Society in 1960, is presented annually to a graduate of Rutgers School of Engineering who has made significant technical contributions in their professional career. Rutgers Engineering Alumni, previously known as the Rutgers Engineering Society, is the alumni organization of the School of Engineering, and supports the school, its programs, faculty, and students through a year-round schedule of activities.



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WELCOMING REMARKS

David Wade ENG'89

President, Incrementum

Jonathan Holloway, Ph.D.

President

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Alberto Cuitiño, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Engineering

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Distinguished Young Alumnus | Parth Oza, P.E. ENG'12 GSNB'21

Nenad Gucunski, Ph.D.

Professor and Department Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Dean's Award for Service and Lifetime Achievement | Kenneth Johnson ENG'66

Alberto Cuitiño

Distinguished Alumnus in Industry | Whitney Muse ENG'o8

Michael Brown, Ed.D. ENG'o7

Assistant Dean, Access Programs; Director, EOF/EOP Programs

DINNER IS SERVED

Corporate Partner of the Year | Turner Construction

Tilak Lal ENG'84

Head of Investment Risk Management, Lighthouse Partners

Rutgers University Board of Governors Trustee

Jordan Dumas ENG'25

Distinguished Alumnus in Research | Bruce Dunn, Ph.D. ENG'70

Lisa Klein, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor and Department Chair, Materials Science and Engineering

Rutgers Engineering Alumni Distinguished Engineer Award |

Vasant Padmanabhan, Ph.D. GSNB'93

Parth Oza, P.E. ENG'12 GSNB'21

President, Rutgers Engineering Alumni

David Shreiber, Ph.D.

Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Medal of Excellence | Michael Haberman ENG'90

Alberto Cuitiño



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A large red Weeks crane is positioned on a pier or barge, lifting a smaller crane into the air. The scene is set against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and red clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a silhouette effect on the cranes and the figures of people on the pier. The water in the foreground is dark, reflecting the light from the sky. The Weeks logo and name are visible on the side of the larger crane.

W WEEKS

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Medal of Excellence

This award honors alumni or friends of the School of Engineering whose superior achievements have honorably reflected the school over their lifetime. Recipients of this award will have outstanding professional accomplishments, demonstrated managerial leadership, set high standards of excellence serving as role models for today's Rutgers engineering students, and pursued activities that generally benefit the greater good of society.



HONOREE

Michael Haberman

**ENG'90 Electrical Engineering
Senior Vice President, Strategy and Transformation
Verizon Global Networks and Technology**

Mike Haberman serves as senior vice president, strategy and transformation, for Verizon's Global Networks and Technology (GN&T) organization, responsible for the GN&T Transformation Office and the Technology Ambassador Office. He also plays a critical role as liaison between Network and Verizon's Business and Consumer Groups.

As leader of the Transformation Office, Mr. Haberman is responsible for re-imagining how work is accomplished and ensuring that roles, processes, systems and culture are put into place to support their evolution to the Verizon network architecture of the future. In this role, he works with business leaders, industry partners and consortiums, nonprofits, and universities to ensure Verizon is at the forefront of technology and innovation now and into the future.

Prior to his current roles, Mr. Haberman was responsible for the national deployment of 5G technology, and oversaw Network performance, support, and implementation for the nation's largest 4G LTE network in the United States.

Over the past 30 years with Verizon and its predecessor companies, Mr. Haberman has played a pivotal role in developing the digital standards that revolutionized wireless services in the U.S. Since joining the company in 1990, he has held positions in engineering, technology development, system performance, and voice and data operations.

Distinguished Engineer Award

The Distinguished Engineer Award is presented annually by Rutgers Engineering Alumni to a fellow School of Engineering graduate who has made significant technical contributions in his or her career. Alumni of the School of Engineering have been presenting this award since 1960.



HONOREE

Vasant Padmanabhan, Ph.D.

GSNB'90, '93 Biomedical Engineering
President, ENT Business Unit and R&D
Smith+Nephew

Vasant Padmanabhan is a medical technology executive with over 25 years of global leadership experience and a track record of delivering business results and innovation pipelines in several medical technology segments. Since joining Smith+Nephew in 2016 as its president of R&D and member of the executive committee, Dr. Padmanabhan has led the delivery of multi-generational innovation pipelines for several business segments including orthopaedics, robotics, sports medicine, ENT, biologics, and wound management. In 2023, Dr. Padmanabhan assumed additional responsibility for the company's global ENT business unit, and is focused on driving growth platforms like Tula, an innovative and transformative solution to place ear tubes in children without general anesthesia.

Prior to Smith+Nephew, Dr. Padmanabhan was senior vice president of technical operations at Thoratec Corporation, a leader in mechanical circulatory support solutions for the treatment of heart failure. Prior to Thoratec, Dr. Padmanabhan had an 18-year career at Medtronic where he held several leadership positions in R&D and operations.

Dr. Padmanabhan earned master's and doctoral degrees in biomedical engineering from Rutgers and an MBA from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

Distinguished Achievement in Industry

This award honors alumni of the School of Engineering whose contributions have earned distinction in industry as a leader, innovator, and manager.



HONOREE

Whitney Muse

ENG'08 Applied Sciences in Engineering
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation
The White House

Whitney Muse is a Biden-Harris Administration appointee currently serving as the senior policy advisor in The White House Office of Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation (OCEII), where she works on implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy and climate provisions. Ms. Muse joined The White House in September 2023 from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

As the inaugural chief of staff and senior advisor of DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO), she worked across operations, program development, and policy implementation of GDO's \$26 billion portfolio addressing power generation, transmission, and grid resilience topics. She began at DOE as chief of staff in the Office of Electricity. Prior to joining DOE, Ms. Muse provided policy and regulatory analysis of international power sector projects at Deloitte and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Ms. Muse earned a bachelor's degree in applied sciences and engineering from Rutgers School of Engineering and her M.A. in international energy and environment policy from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies.

Dean's Award for Service and Lifetime Achievement

This dual-focused award honors alumni of the School of Engineering who have achieved career success through impactful engineering and contributed their time and talent to enriching the Rutgers community.



HONOREE

Kenneth Johnson

**ENG'66 Mechanical Engineering
Vice President/General Manager (retired)
Lockheed Martin Space Systems**

In a career spanning 35 years with Lockheed Martin Corporation, Ken Johnson held a variety of senior positions in aerospace engineering and technical management in the development of space-systems, and leading large, multi-disciplined organizations. Mr. Johnson retired as vice president serving as the general manager of the Communications & Power Center located in Newtown, PA, and as the general manager of the East Windsor, NJ spacecraft design and manufacturing facility known as AstroSpace.

Among the awards and honors he has garnered during his career are Lockheed Martin Exceptional Service Award finalist in Global Excellence in Operations—Fortune Magazine; selected by Smithsonian as one of four RCA Pioneers in Space; Tau Beta Pi Eminent Engineer; AIAA Associate Fellow; ASME Associate Fellow; GE 1-in-1,000 award; two RCA Technical Excellence awards; and the NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center Public Service Award. He has also been recognized by Rutgers University, including Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni, Rutgers Distinguished Engineer Award, and Loyal Son of Rutgers.

Mr. Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Rutgers in 1966 and a master's in engineering management from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1971. He is a member of the Rutgers Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Directors, has been very active with the Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering, a leader and board member of the Rutgers University Alumni Association, and president of several chartered alumni associations.

Distinguished Achievement in Research

This award honors alumni of the School of Engineering whose achievements in research have significantly contributed to the advancement of new technologies.



HONOREE

Bruce Dunn, Ph.D.

ENG'70 Ceramics Engineering
Distinguished Professor, Materials Science and
Engineering
University of California, Los Angeles

Bruce Dunn is a distinguished professor of materials science and engineering at UCLA and holds the Nippon Sheet Glass endowed professorship; he also served as interim dean of the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering from 2022-2023. Prior to joining UCLA in 1981, he was a staff scientist at the General Electric R&D labs in Schenectady, NY.

Dr. Dunn is widely known for his research related to the synthesis of inorganic and organic/inorganic hybrid materials and the characterization of their electrical, optical, biological, and electrochemical properties. His recent work on electrochemical energy storage includes such accomplishments as the development of three-dimensional batteries and creating a new generation of energy storage materials known as pseudo-capacitors. He has led research programs at UCLA for DARPA, the Office of Naval Research, and the Department of Energy, published over 300 papers in scientific literature, been awarded 24 patents, and serves on the editorial boards of several renowned publications. His list of honors includes a Fulbright research fellowship, the Orton Lectureship from the American Ceramic Society, the Web of Science list of Highly Cited Researchers, and awards from the Department of Energy for outstanding research in materials science.

Dr. Dunn earned his bachelor's degree in ceramics engineering from Rutgers and master's and doctoral degrees from UCLA.

Distinguished Young Alumnus

This award recognizes the early career accomplishments of alumni who have graduated—at any academic level—within the past ten years and have demonstrated continued involvement with the school and university.



HONOREE

Parth Oza, P.E.

ENG'12 Civil and Environmental Engineering, GSNB'21
Assistant Commissioner and Deputy State
Transportation Engineer
Capital Program Management
New Jersey Department of Transportation

Parth Oza has served as assistant commissioner of capital program management (CPM) since 2022. As a key member of the New Jersey Department of Transportation's senior leadership team, he is charged with delivering the bulk of the department's capital program of over \$1 billion annually in state and federal construction projects, in addition to over \$350 million in consultant engineering awards. Mr. Oza oversees a workforce of over 1,300 employees in several divisions within CPM and is responsible for leading an active construction program valued at approximately \$4 billion with over 200 active highway and bridge construction projects. He also serves as a deputy state transportation engineer for the department, and previously served in various roles in the Division of Transportation Operations Systems and Support.

Mr. Oza holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and an MBA from Rutgers University. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of New Jersey and serves as the president of the Rutgers Engineering Alumni group.

Corporate Partner of the Year

This award recognizes a corporation or business that has demonstrated outstanding collaboration and made a positive impact within Rutgers School of Engineering's community in the areas of philanthropy, student engagement, research partnerships, and career support.

The logo for Turner Construction Company, featuring the word "Turner" in a white, bold, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

HONOREE

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A North America-based, international construction services company, Turner is a leading builder completing \$17 billion of construction on 1,500+ projects annually. The company has earned recognition for fostering innovation, embracing emerging technologies, and exemplifying a dedication to success that not only encourages, but prioritizes, a healthy and equitable platform for its people and the environments in which they work, live, and learn.

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Among their 10,000+ person workforce are several Rutgers alumni, many playing roles to enhance a nearly 14-year partnership between Turner and the university through student-facing volunteerism; internships and career opportunities; and participation in school initiatives bringing together industry, government, and academic leaders to create healthier and more resilient communities.

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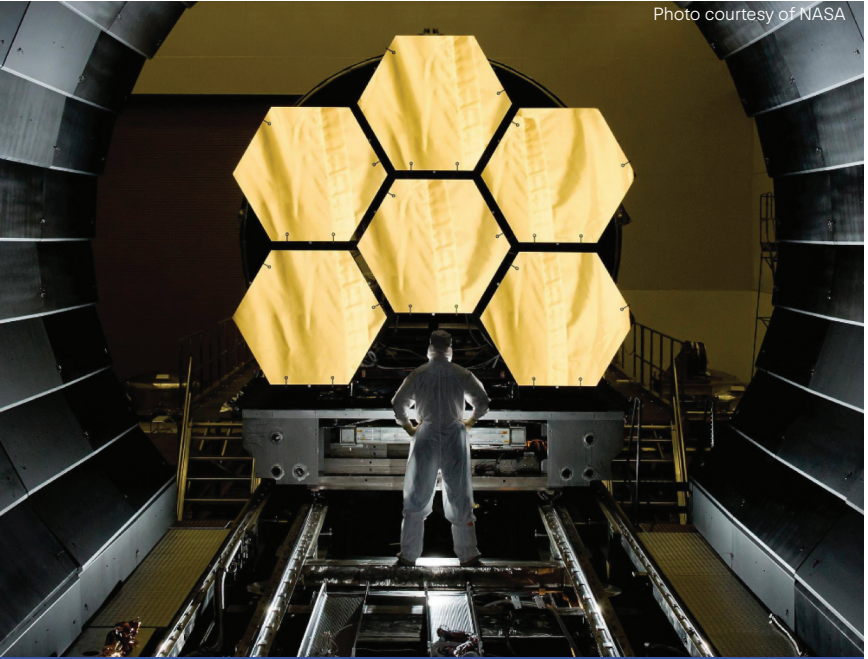
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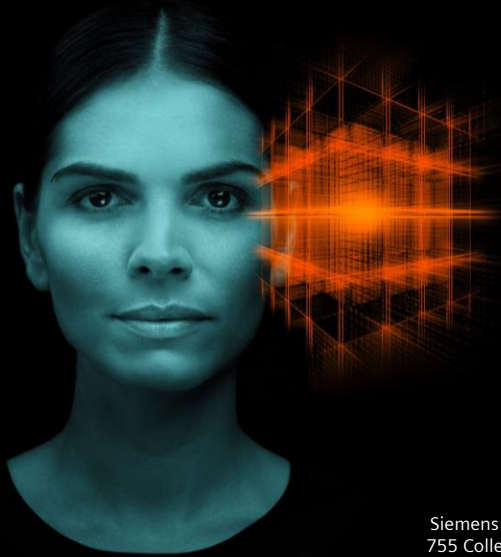
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We are proud sponsors of the Medal of Excellence and warmly congratulate the 2024 awardees for their achievements.

A special thank you to the many Rutgers graduates who help us advance research and shape the future of healthcare in Princeton, New Jersey and worldwide.

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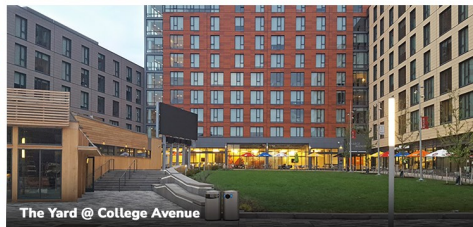
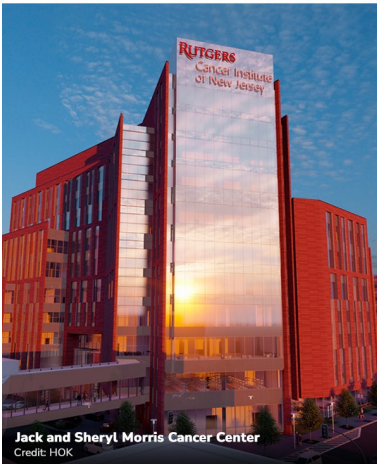
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