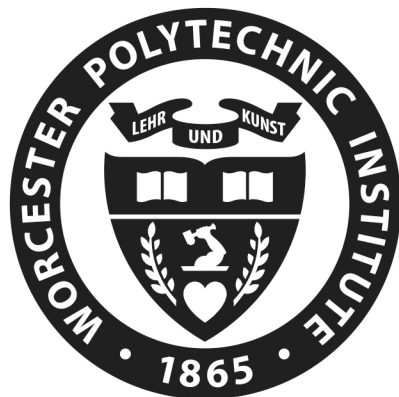


WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

ROBERT H. GODDARD ALUMNI AWARD



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS TO

STEVEN P. VASSALLO '93

THIS AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF
OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT

STEVEN VASSALLO, your entrepreneurial spirit and success embody the ideals that WPI holds true – theory, practice, and innovation. The WPI Alumni Association is proud to recognize you today.

You earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and then entered a master's program at Stanford, earning your degree two years later in electromechanical engineering. Later in your career, you returned to Stanford to study business, receiving your MBA in 2004.

Your career began at IDEO where you were a project leader and design engineer, developing products for companies including Cisco, Nike, BMW, Steelcase, McDonalds, and Caterpillar. After leaving IDEO, you became director of mechanical engineering for Immersion, which pioneered the field of tactile feedback and human touch technology. Following your success there, you transitioned to Ning, a consumer Internet service where users can create their own social network for any passion, cause, and so on.

You currently serve as a general partner for Foundation Capital, a venture capital firm in Silicon Valley, which manages more than \$2.4 billion in investment capital. You are the convener and host of Product Minds, a Foundation Capital series of conversations with industry leaders about the art, science, and drive that go into building great products.

You also spend your time advising many companies. You are on the board of directors at Sunrun [RUN], Sentient Energy, Cerebras, Flight Labs, ForUsAll, Mode Analytics, Bolt Threads, and AutoGrid. You are actively involved with companies like eMeter, EnerNOC, and Serious-Materials. You also share your expertise with the Nueva School and you advise the Aquaya Institute, a nonprofit research and consulting firm focused on bringing safe water innovations to vulnerable populations.

Your passion for entrepreneurialism began long before your education was formalized. At just 13 years old, you began a snow blowing service. It taught you to take advantage of every opportunity—a mindset that set you up for success. Your innovations have earned you over 28 patents and several design awards, including *Business Week's* Design of the Decade Award, red dot 2009, IDEA99 Gold and Bronze Awards, NeoCon Gold, and Most Innovative New Product awards.

Steven Vassallo, you are an entrepreneur who lives at the intersection of business, technology, and design. Your innovation and expertise are sought after by many cutting-edge companies in the areas of cleantech, consumer software, and services. The WPI Alumni Association is proud to present you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.

June 2, 2018

President, WPI Alumni Association