

Joseph D. Adams Jr. '75

ROBERT H. GODDARD AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Joe Adams, you are at the center of one of the largest and most complex engineering projects in the world: the \$3 billion Panama Canal expansion. Your leadership of the design consortium on this, as well as major engineering and construction projects around the world brings pride and distinction to the entire WPI community.

You came to WPI as a junior, after two years at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. Your father, Joe Adams Sr., a surveyor with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, urged you to finish your degree at WPI. Although your father never had the opportunity to earn a college degree, he worked with WPI-trained engineers on major projects and advised you that all the best engineers he had worked with had gone to WPI.

You earned a degree in civil engineering, just as the WPI Plan was adopted and students were expected to solve real-world problems with an understanding of the impact their solutions would have on people. These are lessons you have carried with you throughout your 35-year career in engineering, construction, and project management.

After seven years at IT corporation, you joined MWH in 1985. You held many leadership positions, including office manager for the Chicago office,

director of business development, and chief operating officer for the industrial business of the Americas region. You also served as president of MWH Constructors from 2005 to 2011.

You currently serve as president of Energy and Industry at MWH, overseeing oil and gas, mining, and hydro-electric projects around the world. Your work has taken you to as many as 25 countries in a single year—a true test of your WPI education. Considering the impact of engineering solutions on local populations is a focus of MWH projects. As you noted in a recent *WPI Journal* article:

“If we’re going to build a dam in Latin America, if we’re going to open a mine, we need to understand what the local population thinks about the project, what their concerns are—and make sure those are addressed.”

In fact, you place such value on your WPI education, that you and your wife, Pat, have established a scholarship for WPI’s Project Centers that will help students complete their project requirements at one of WPI’s more than 40 global project centers.

Joe Adams, you have shown what a WPI education can achieve on the grandest of scales. The WPI Alumni Association is pleased to present you with the Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.

