

# Michael Aghajanian '80

HERBERT F. TAYLOR AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO WPI

Mike Aghajanian, you once said that WPI is the perfect place to make a difference. We are pleased to recognize you today for the difference you are making through your service to your alma mater.

As a student, you had set your sights on the Air Force Academy and becoming a pilot. But relatives in Worcester turned your attention to WPI and you have never looked back. After graduating, you went on to earn an MBA in technology management from the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine; you are also a graduate of GE's Manufacturing Management Program.

Your impressive career in manufacturing management includes positions of increasing leadership at GE, Ernst & Young, Coopers & Lybrand, and PRTM Management Consultants. You retired from PRTM, which is now part of PricewaterhouseCoopers, as managing director.

Even with a demanding career and keeping up with your busy family life, you have found time to give back to WPI. Most notably you are the first graduate to serve as a co-advisor for an off-campus project, working with students at the WPI Project Center in Melbourne, Australia, in D-Term 2013. You took on your role whole-heartedly and are described as performing "like a seasoned veteran." You helped the project team prepare from your home base in California, dedicating six hours of online meeting time every week to these students. While on site in Melbourne, you were always available for meetings with students and sponsors; you shared your knowledge and examples



from your own career, and connected the students to key contacts. Your co-advisor, Holly Ault, credits you with teaching these students "a tremendous amount about teamwork, business acumen, and interpersonal skills." She describes you as "a fabulous role model." You also took on your fair share of responding to IQP drafts, critiquing practice presentations, and managing the countless administrative details required of on-site advisors.

This year you continued your service to WPI students and faculty, co-advising at the Venice Project Center. Fabio Carrera, center director, described you as "one of the most effective co-advisors

I have ever worked with in my three decades of IQP advising."

You have shared your knowledge and experience as a member of the Foisie School of Business Dean's Council of Strategic Advisors, and you currently serve as a member of WPI's Innovation & Entrepreneurship Council of Strategic Advisors. You support WPI students through the Michael Aghajanian '80 Family Scholarship Fund, and you served as the keynote speaker at a School of Business networking event in New York City. You have also played a key role in organizing alumni in Southern California. You are a member of the Paul Merage School of Business Dean's Advisory Board and Dean's Leadership Circle.

Mike Aghajanian, we agree whole-heartedly with all the faculty you have worked with and supported at WPI— you are a fabulous role model for our students and your fellow alumni. The WPI Alumni Association is honored to present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.