R. William Lapp '02

ICHABOD WASHBURN YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

William Lapp, you exemplify the WPI ideal of the engineering leader. We are proud to honor you today.

Your impressive career started at Cisco Systems as an intern with the Customer Contact Business. Since then you have risen through a series of leadership positions at Cisco. In your current role as senior systems engineering manager for US Enterprise Collaboration Engineering, you lead the engineering team across Cisco's Enterprise Segment and the Collaboration portfolio, which includes Telephony, Telepresence Video, Webex, Jabber, Contact Center, Quad, and other products and services that help individuals and organizations around the world communicate and collaborate. In 2011 you were the only systems engineering leader in the Americas to earn the Game Changing Leader award, given to top leaders for results, innovation, and culture.

You also are known for bringing out the best in others. You led a technical boot camp for nearly 1,400 engineers in 26 cities, and your colleagues often seek your advice and counsel. In addition, you developed a network of customers, partners, professional services, sales, support managers, and executives and found ways to leverage this group to recruit talent, solve problems, and gain support for initiatives.

You were also an associate member of the Technical Staff at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, where you worked in the field of high performance real-time computing and its application to ballistic missile defense and radar technologies. Generous with your time and expertise, you have been a guest lecturer at WPI and Babson, where you earned your MBA, have sponsored Major Qualifying Projects for WPI, and often share your career experience and insights with WPI students.

William Lapp, you demonstrate to our students how a WPI education provides a foundation for leadership in a rapidly changing world. The WPI Alumni Association presents you with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.