Richard D. Willett ’91

Rick Willett, in a few short years you’ve taken the knowledge and experience you gained as a WPI student and translated it into an extraordinarily productive career and have become a source of great pride for your alma mater.

After receiving your bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from WPI in 1991, you began your career at GE Plastics. After several manufacturing and product leadership roles, you were sponsored by GE for an MBA in Finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. During the years that followed, you held a variety of finance and operational leadership roles in almost all of GE’s operating units. Your leadership roles included Director of Financial Planning & Analysis for GE ERC, Chief Financial Officer for GE Superabrasives and Executive Audit Manager for several units of GE Capital Services. You have had international assignments in over 30 countries of North America, Europe and Asia.

In 2002 your career lead you to Cerberus Capital Management, a private equity firm with over $18B in assets under management, where you played a leadership role on the Teleglobe acquisition team. In 2003 you were named Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Operations for Teleglobe and in 2005 you were named Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President where you led the transformation of Teleglobe out of bankruptcy to become the market leading international wholesale voice and internet telecommunications provider with over $1.2B in annual revenue through multiple acquisitions and organic growth. Additionally, after taking the company public on NASDAQ (TLGB) in 2004, you completed a strategic sale of the company to VSNL International in 2006, providing an overall 35% annualized return for Cerberus Capital Management.

Rick Willett, your history of accomplishment and your dedication are a source of pride for WPI. It is an honor to present you with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.