

## **Bernard Receives First CHTE Distinguished Service Award (May, 2009)**

At the annual spring meeting of the Center for Heat Treating Excellence (CHTE), William Bernard, President of Surface Combustion in Maumee, Ohio, received the first CHTE Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to honor an individual who, in the judgment of the CHTE Board, has made significant, commendable, and long-standing contributions to the promotion of CHTE. Criteria include an active CHTE membership in good standing for a minimum of three years and exceptional contributions to CHTE. Surface Combustion was CHTE's first member and Mr. Bernard was the first Chair of the Board of Directors. Mr. Bernard is and has been one of CHTE's most ardent supporters. He has been an ambassador for CHTE both through the industrial sector and his professional and trade organizations.

Mr. Bernard has over 39 years of experience in the industrial equipment industry. He joined Surface Combustion in 1969 following his graduation from Michigan Technology University with a BS in Metallurgical Engineering. In the years prior to 1987, Mr. Bernard served in a wide variety of positions from equipment start-up and field service through contract engineering, product management and international assignments. In 1987, Mr. Bernard participated in the successful purchase of the former Surface Division of Midland-Ross Corporation. In 1998, Mr. Bernard became the President and CEO and controlling shareholder in the company, now Surface Combustion, Inc.

Mr. Bernard is active in many related industry associations including serving in the past as president of Industrial Heating Equipment Association (IHEA), ASM International, Board of ASM Heat Treating Society (currently Past President), Metal Treating Institute Board, and the Ohio Commodores.

Mr. Bernard has received awards on behalf of Surface Combustion and himself including the governor of Ohio's "E" Award for Excellence in Exporting (1999 and 2006) and the Ohio Thomas Edison Program Emerging Technology Award. He was awarded a patent for the Inside/Out Vacuum Furnaces and is also an inductee into the Michigan Technological University Academy of Materials Engineers. He was also the 2004 Metal Treating Institute Associate Member of the Year. In 2004, Mr. Bernard won the prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Northwest Ohio and was a 2004 National Award Nominee.