

David A. Lucht

- Professional Engineer (P.E.); FSFPE
- Adjunct Professor, Fire Protection Engineering
- Director Emeritus, Center for Firesafety Studies
- Affiliated with:
 - Business of Engineering Practice
 - Communications
 - Entrepreneurship

Professor Lucht's career in the fire protection field spanned a period of over 45 years in business, government and academia. In 1978, Lucht became the first director of the newly created Center for Firesafety Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. There he was responsible for overseeing the startup of the new graduate degree fire protection engineering program, fund raising, faculty and organizational development, recruiting, marketing, administration, and media relations. He appeared extensively in the print and electronic media including network radio and television broadcasts as well as programming on the Discovery Channel, History Channel, PBS NOVA and Voice of America. He discontinued his consulting practice in 1985 to devote full time to his work at WPI. During his 25 years as head of the program, WPI launched the nation's first MS degree curriculum in fire protection engineering. A first of its kind PhD program was started in 1991, and the first global distance learning FPE degree program was launched in 1993. Over the years WPI became recognized as the leader in fire protection engineering graduate education, worldwide. Lucht retired from his academic post in 2004. In order to achieve transitional overlap with his fire protection engineering successor, Lucht transferred to an administrative position at WPI, serving as Associate Vice President in the Division of Development and University Relations for 12 months. In this position he focused on university-wide market research with emphasis on the Millennials generation. And he continued an academic affiliation as Adjunct Professor and Director Emeritus of the Center for Firesafety Studies. He fully retired from university service in 2005. Throughout his career, Lucht has been highly active in service to the profession. He served as a member of the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Board of Trustees for over ten years and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Board of Directors for nine years. He is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) and chaired the SFPE Board of Directors. He is a member of the CTC Public Safety Technology Center Board of Trustees. Honors and recognitions include the SFPE President's Award (1988), Harold E. Nelson Service Award (1993), the John J. Ahern Award (2000), the Arthur B. Guise Medal and Prize (2002), the New England Chapter Person of the Year Award (2004), and the David Rasbash Memorial Medal from the Institution of Fire Engineers (London, 2006). In 2005 the SFPE created the prestigious David A. Lucht Lamp of Knowledge Award in his honor.

Research Interests

- Building codes
- Public policy
- Regulatory reform

Education

- BS, Illinois Institute of Technology