

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
**I** **INNOVATOR**  
 OF THE YEAR

*Robert L. Diamond '56*



Innovation starts with thinking outside the box—looking beyond the boundaries of conventional frameworks, patterns, beliefs, and values—and ends with a new product, process, service, or business model that changes the game.

Bob Diamond is a game changer. His childhood in Worcester was, to say the least, challenging. He changed the game for himself with hard work, commitment, and brainpower. After starting at Worcester Junior College, Bob enrolled at WPI, where he studied electrical engineering while working three jobs.

Bob started his career at Philco, FXR, and North American Philips, working in engineering, sales, and marketing and becoming a self-described “enabler, finding the application, fitting the technology to it.” It wasn’t long before he was ready to strike out on his own. He founded Robert Diamond Inc., an engineering consulting and manufacturer’s representative firm, and excelled in technology transfer, connecting novel technologies to new product development; and connecting new products to new business opportunities. For example, he brought the Hughes CMOS chip technology to Timex for watches and to Milton Bradley for portable game technology, and the Fairchild LED technology to Monroe to make an early four-function calculator.

In the early 1980s, Bob’s company developed a connection with AT&T and Bell Labs through an engagement helping an AT&T supplier. This in turn led to his involvement in the launch of CIDCO Inc., a company that helped develop and commercialize caller ID. He had implemented yet another game changer. CIDCO was ultimately acquired by Earthlink, and Bob began looking for his next opportunity.

Recognizing the potential of using the Internet to access, control, and monitor devices in homes and businesses, Bob founded Xanboo to commercialize this emerging technology. Xanboo developed a central server-based platform that made it possible for users, using smart phones or computers, to remotely manage their security, HVAC, and lighting systems from anywhere in the world. Recognized with a long list of industry awards, Xanboo was acquired by AT&T and Bob started looking for his next game changer.

With the founding of his current venture, he returned to electronic design and manufacturing based upon LED technology. Xeleum designs and manufactures a variety of LED lighting products that are being successfully deployed in applications ranging from office and residential buildings and warehouses to hospitals, supermarkets, and retail chains. LED lights contain no glass, mercury, or harmful chemicals and are fully biodegradable.

Bob Diamond has an enviable track record as an innovator and entrepreneur, with a string of game changers to his credit. He thrives on seeking out, recognizing, and acting on opportunities – connecting technologies to new products and building businesses that improve the quality of life for individuals, businesses, and communities. In Bob’s own words, “Part of success is having vision; much of it is jumping on opportunities.” The entire WPI community is proud to honor Bob Diamond as the 2013 WPI Innovator of the Year; and we thank him for having vision and for jumping on opportunities to make the world a better place.

Dean, WPI School of Business

Interim President, WPI

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