

# ENGINEERING EDUCATION OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

*February 17, 2010*

EAST FACULTY LOUNGE ■ PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION  
Purdue University





I'm delighted to present this year's recipient of the Engineering Education Outstanding Alumni Award: Howard J. Gobstein, a graduate of the former Division of Interdisciplinary Engineering (now part of the School of Engineering Education).

A continuation of the Outstanding Interdisciplinary Engineering Alumni Award bestowed before the School's founding in 2004, the Engineering Education Outstanding Alumni Award is presented to alumni

who have achieved singular accomplishments in their fields, whose successful careers are role models for our students, and whose achievements set an example for all the school's alumni. In future years, the award will recognize alumni who have interdisciplinary engineering, multidisciplinary engineering, or engineering education degrees, reflecting all academic degrees offered by the School.

I invite you to discover at tonight's award ceremony what makes Mr. Gobstein such an inspiration. From the springboard of Purdue's Interdisciplinary Engineering program, he has gained preeminence in the field of science policy and university issues, devoting his expertise and leadership to a critical national need: advancing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education. He's a shining example of just what our students can accomplish when they combine an interdisciplinary outlook with a drive to engage with and improve the world around them.

David Radcliffe  
Interim Head, School of Engineering Education  
Epistemology Professor of Engineering Education

# HONOREE



+ A NATIVE OF NEW YORK CITY who grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, Howard J. Gobstein pursued engineering for his undergraduate degree because, as his father put it, "engineering teaches you how to think." Gobstein enrolled at Purdue just as the university offered an innovative new program: Interdisciplinary Engineering (IDE). Initially interested in an integration of engineering and environmental science, he switched to technology and public policy, graduating in 1974 as one of IDE's first alumni.

After earning an M.A. in science, technology, and public policy from George Washington University, Gobstein spent more than a decade with the U.S. Government Account-

## Howard J. Gobstein

+ BS IDE, TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY, 1974

*Executive Officer ■ Vice President, Research, Innovation and STEM Education  
Co-Director, Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative  
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities*

ability Office, where he led evaluations of government science programs and policies.

**“I remember the incredible feeling I had as a freshman at Purdue—that the world was in front of me, that there was so much I could do and gain. I tried to experience it all.”**

In the late 1980s, Gobstein joined the University of Michigan as Director of Federal Relations for Research, moving in the 1990s to the Association of American Universities (AAU), where he served as Vice President and Senior Program Officer. In that role, he rebuilt AAU’s Council of Federal Relations into a dynamic advocacy group. Next, during the Clinton Administration, Gobstein joined the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, as Senior Policy Analyst. Among other assignments, he worked with the Office of Management and Budget and university leaders to negotiate federal research costing issues.

In 1995, Gobstein joined Michigan State University (MSU) as Associate Vice President and Director of Federal Relations. Among a number of achievements, he created and directed MSU’s Washington Office; co-created the MSU Semester in

Washington; and coordinated the establishment of the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, a non-governmental organization.

Gobstein left MSU in 2006 to join the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, where he is Executive Officer and Vice President, Research, Innovation and STEM Education. He also initiated and co-directs the Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative, a movement of 121 public research universities, including 11 university systems, addressing the shortage of well-qualified science and math teachers in the U.S.

**“The U.S. can’t afford to fall behind other nations in terms of educational attainment and science and mathematics literacy across the public, if we are to maintain any degree of economic security and address the challenges we face—global change, energy, food, health.”**

A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Gobstein has recently joined the advisory board of INSPIRE, Purdue’s Institute for P-12 Engineering Research and Learning.

## OUTSTANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGINEERING ALUMNI 1999 ■ 2003

1999

**Gregory M. Ayers**

+ BSE IDE, PRE-MED/PRE-LAW, 1985

2001

**Paul C. Cloyd**

+ BSE IDE, ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING, 1976

**Sue Hudson-Abreu**

+ BSE IDE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, 1978

2002

**Michael J. Cave**

+ BSE IDE, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, 1982

**David R. Schwind**

+ BSE IDE, INVENTIVE DESIGN, 1974

2003

**Geoffrey T. Crowley**

+ BSE IDE, TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING, 1974

## ENGINEERING EDUCATION OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

2009

**Harold M. Aberman**

+ BSE IDE, BIOENGINEERING, 1985

**Brian E. Farley**

+ BSE IDE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, 1979

**Gary C. Horlacher**

+ BSE IDE, SYSTEMS ENGINEERING, 1989

**Robert F. Sharpe Jr.**

+ BSE IDE, PRE-LAW, 1974

**Mary Spiess Smith**

+ BSE IDE, ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING, 1974

