



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:
Society of Women Engineers
Heidi Lerfald
(312) 596-5223
heidi.lerfald@swe.org

JAMES B. PORTER JR. RECEIVES RODNEY D. CHIPP MEMORIAL AWARD

James Porter Jr. recognized at WE07, the Society of Women Engineers national conference, for more than 30 years of corporate leadership as a champion of diversity and female empowerment.

CHICAGO, Nov. 2, 2007 – The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) today announced James B. Porter Jr. as one of two recipients of the 2007 SWE Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award. Porter is being recognized for leadership in a career where he consistently advocates for the inclusion, advancement, and promotion of women to line management and technical leadership positions.

Porter is vice president, engineering and operations and chief engineer for DuPont, Wilmington, Del. In this role, Porter is responsible for performance and staffing of corporate engineering; global offices, labs, and support services; corporate real estate; and remediation.

“Throughout his career, Porter has recognized the value of diversity and has been a driving force in attracting, hiring, and promoting women in technical and leadership positions at DuPont,” says Michelle Tortolani, president of SWE. “His foresight in promoting a support system for women engineers at DuPont has been integral in the success of women securing prominent roles over the past 20 years.”

Since joining DuPont in 1966, Porter has held a variety of manufacturing positions, including construction, design, and investment management, as well as recruiting and technical assignments.

In 1992, Porter took a key role in the formation of the first women’s group in DuPont. The purpose of the group was to help attract and hire female engineers at DuPont; to maintain the women engineers who were already at DuPont by providing a forum for networking, sharing experiences, and supporting one another; and to prepare women engineers to take higher-level positions.

“Jim has been an advocate for attracting and retaining women engineers into DuPont through involvement with universities, sponsoring outreach programs for college students, and providing opportunities for advancement to women in this organization,” says Charles O. Holliday Jr., chairman and CEO, DuPont. “Many of our senior DuPont engineering leadership positions are filled by women whom Jim has mentored and developed throughout their careers.”

Porter also sponsored a gender and multicultural workshop in the 1990s for the faculty and administrators of the Purdue University School of Engineering. Today, the project is implemented across the entire Purdue campus.

Porter was awarded the 2004 Construction Industry Institute Carroll H. Dunn Award of Excellence and the 2005 Engineering and Construction Contracting Association Achievement Award. He currently serves on the Argonne National Laboratories Board of Governors, the Mascaro Sustainability Initiative Advisory Board, and the National Society of Professional Engineers Industry Advisory Group.

Porter received his B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Tennessee. He has also completed numerous management and post-graduate courses. Porter is a Six Sigma Green Belt.

The Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award celebrates and recognizes a man, company, or institution who has contributed significantly to the acceptance and advancement of women in the engineering field.

The Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award will be presented on October 26 at WE07, the Society of Women Engineers national conference. WE07 is being held at the Nashville Convention Center, October 25-27, in Nashville, Tenn. The more than 4,000 attendees include professionals from every discipline of the engineering profession and engineering students and educators. The WE08 conference is scheduled for November 6-8, 2008, in Baltimore.

About SWE

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit educational and service organization. SWE is the driving force that establishes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in those aspirations and receive the recognition and credit for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders. For more information about the Society please visit www.swe.org or call (312) 596-5223.

###