Mark Freitas, we are proud to honor you today for your determination, drive and success as an entrepreneur and a business leader. With over 19 years of experience in the data communications industry, you have earned the respect of your colleagues and peers.

You received both your bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from WPI. Early in your career you held a range of software development positions at Motorola Codex and then at Microcom Inc., where, as vice president of network and software products, you were named inventor on three patents in the communications field.

You rose to the position of executive vice president of the Central Business Unit of Microcom, which has since been acquired by Compaq Corporation. With your experience in marketing, purchasing and licensing management, product development, public relations, customer service, and corporate strategy, you were instrumental in shaping the company's identity from a modem manufacturer to a remote access provider.

In 1998, you founded Altiga Networks in Franklin, Mass., and served as its president and CEO until its acquisition by Cisco Systems in January 2000. Altiga, by then a market leader in integrated virtual private networks for remote access applications, became part of the enterprise Networking Solutions and Provisioned Services business line of Cisco.

An avid runner, you have made wellness an integral part of your entrepreneurial success. You once remarked, "Some people say that to be successful as an entrepreneur, you have to let it totally consume you. I don't subscribe to that theory-my venture capitalists did not own my body and soul."

You simply understand that to grow a young company, such as Altiga, you and your employees had to stay healthy.

Mark Freitas, your achievements bring great pride to WPI. It is with honor that we recognize your distinguished accomplishments by presenting you with the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.