2010 Award Recipient

Judith Nitsch '75

Judy Nitsch, you are an inspiration for students, alumni, and future generations of engineers. Your career accomplishments and your passionate dedication to your alma mater are equally valued by WPI.

After graduating with the pioneering women of 1975, you quickly established yourself as a capable engineer. At Schofield Brothers, you were promoted to branch manager, made history as the firm's first woman vice president, and joined the board of directors. At Allen & Demurjian you rapidly rose to stockholder and partner, adding your name to the firm's title. But following your true ambition, you ventured out on your own to form Judith Nitsch Engineering. Within five years, the company you founded was named one of Inc. magazine's 500 fastest growing companies. Today, Nitsch Engineering is known for its work on projects in 15 states and six countries, and consulting work on environmentally responsible, LEED-certified structures.

You made history in your field with many “firsts” on your resume. You were the youngest and first woman president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section/ASCE. You've held leadership posts in the Society of Women Engineers and numerous other professional organizations. You've won honors as an exemplary manager, an innovative designer, and a groundbreaking woman. WPI has previously recognized your achievements and your loyalty with the Washburn, Boynton, and Goddard awards. In 1989, you once again made history by becoming the first woman graduate elected to the university's Board of Trustees.

Your success is no surprise to us. An exceptional student, you were listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." You never fail to credit your alma mater for giving you your start as an engineer, and you remain one of the university's biggest supporters. As chair of the Facilities Committee, you work tirelessly to ensure a sustainable future for this campus. You played a major role in the planning and construction of East Hall, WPI's newest residence building. Your generous contributions brought the building's green roof to life and made environmentally responsible living a reality for the 232 students who now live and study there.

Judy Nitsch, for all that you do for your alma mater and for your profession, we are honored to present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.