2001 Award Recipient

John W. Powers '61

John Powers, the many volunteer roles you have played over the years are testimony to your dedication to WPI. Your volunteer career at your alma mater began in the early 1970s when you served as secretary and later president of the Connecticut Valley Alumni Club. Through the years, you have also served as an alumni admissions volunteer and an Alumni Council representative.

As a Presidential Founder and a member of both the President's Advisory Council and the Alden Society, you have not only supported WPI generously, but have freely volunteered your time—as a head class agent, a PAC solicitor, and an active member of both your 25th and 40th Anniversary Gift Campaigns. Your quiet but persuasive nature has encouraged countless classmates and fellow alumni to join you in investing in WPI.

A member of the Alumni Fund Board since 1995, you now serve as chair of the Alumni Funds Board. Prior to your election as chair, you headed up the Annual Alumni Fund Committee, where you led an important effort to organize and recruit over 1,500 class volunteers to launch reunion and anniversary gift campaigns in support of The Campaign for WPI. Since the beginning of the campaign, your leadership has helped generate some impressive results. The Annual Fund has doubled from $1 million to $2 million in the last five years, setting new records each year; the percentage of alumni who give annually has grown from 24 to over 28. Moreover, alumni gifts make up over $65 million of the cash and commitments received in support of the campaign, to date.

Your professional career also has been closely linked to your alma mater. Joining Tighe and Bond in 1968, you succeeded Ed Bayon '31 as president in 1989 and turned over the reins of leadership to David Healy '69 a decade later. As chairman of the board, you now oversee one of the oldest continually operating engineering firms in New England, one with a history of prominent environmental engineering projects across the United States and overseas. With 15 WPI graduates employed by the firm, Tighe and Bond was among the first to step forward to invest in WPI's new Campus Center and to have its logo prominently displayed on the Corporate Partners Wall.

John Powers, in recognition of your leadership, support, steadfast commitment, and talents as an accomplished fund-raiser, it is an honor to present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.