2008 Award Recipient

James M. Welch ’83

James Welch, when you applied for admission to WPI in fall 1977, you said you felt it would be a challenge to be a problem solver in a modern society. You have risen to that challenge during your 25-year career. Since earning your bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1983, you have become a master problem solver and technological leader.

Soon after graduating from WPI, you were appointed senior systems engineer at Intellution Inc. in Westwood, Mass. It was in your early years, where you designed and implemented a new generation of human machine interface that you showcased WPI’s motto of Lehr und Kunst, theory and practice. Your talent and ambition fed a prosperous career at Intellution, where you rose to senior vice president of engineering and support.

Not one for stagnancy, you received an MBA from Bentley College in the early 1990s and continued your career as vice president of product development at Ascential Software Inc., where you drove transformation of the product portfolio, helped establish the enterprise data integration market, and enabled customers to leverage their data as a strategic business asset.

After Ascential was acquired by the IBM Software Group, you led the team that built the IBM InfoSphere platform and tools. This massive project, which encompasses more than 100 software inventions, delivers trusted information providing enterprises insight to better serve their customers, identify and mitigate risks, and achieve business agility.

James Welch, because you put into practice the theories and processes needed to become an expert problem solver, WPI is proud to honor you with the Robert H. Goddard Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.