2000 Award Recipient

Lester Reynolds '50
Les Reynolds, the myriad alumni roles you have played over the years are testimony to your dedication to WPI and to the industry you have displayed throughout your life, stretching back to your days of working on your father's apple farm.

You enrolled at WPI at the encouragement of your uncle, the late Herbert Ferris, Class of 1899, a WPI trustee. After receiving your degree in chemical engineering, you continued your uncle's legacy of support by becoming an active member of the WPI Alumni Association, serving in a variety of capacities that included class secretary, class Reunion chair and Alumni Council representative. You also helped keep the Northern New Jersey Club a vibrant and active alumni chapter through your participation and leadership.

As you advanced your career at American Cyanamid, where you rose to the post of manager of planning and business development for the Chemical Products Division, the Alumni Association invited you to serve on the Executive Committee. In this capacity, you successfully chaired the regional club and leadership training programs. After you retired, you were called upon again, this time to serve on the Nominating Committee.

You also committed yourself to the long-term health and success of WPI by serving on the steering committees for your 40th and 50th Anniversary Gift campaigns and generously supporting these efforts. As further testimony of your vision of lasting participation in the future of the University, you became a member of the Alden Society, which is committed to providing future resources through estate and other planned gifts.

Your volunteerism has not been limited to your alma mater. You have made countless contributions to your profession, your church and your community. You were the founding president for three nonprofit organizations: the North American Society for Corporate Planning, the Somerset County Jail Chaplaincy in New Jersey, and the Old Lyme, Conn., Affordable Housing Corporation.

Les Reynolds, in recognition of your leadership, talent and steadfast commitment to the mission of this University, it is an honor to present you with the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to WPI.