2002 Award Recipient

Paul A. Lacouture ‘72

Paul Lacouture, you are one of the leaders who has revolutionized the telecommunications industry. For three decades, you have directed your energy and your visions to innovations in technology and service that have impacted the way we all do business as well as the way we all live. We salute you for the positive changes telecommunications bring to our world.

Today, you serve as president of Network Services Group for Verizon. Your group designs, builds and delivers network solutions-ranging from voice dial tone to high-capacity data services-for Verizon's retail and wholesale customers. The group includes those organizations responsible for network operations, engineering and planning, corporate sourcing, technology, real estate, and wholesale services and marketing for Verizon's U.S. Wireline Network.

Your career began after graduation in 1972 as an engineer in Network Design for New England Telephone. After serving in a variety of engineering and operations positions, in 1987 you became vice president, for the Vermont region. You were elected a New England Telephone officer in 1991, when you were named vice president of engineering and construction.

At the merger of Bell Atlantic and NYNEX in 1997, you took on added leadership responsibilities as first chief technology and engineering officer for Bell Atlantic, and later as president of Network Services.

Your leadership and technological expertise have benefited numerous community, civic and business organizations, including the Business Roundtable and the United Way. Here on campus, you have contributed greatly to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department as a member and now chair of the department's advisory board.

Your enthusiasm for innovation and your ability to make changes work date back to your days as an undergraduate, when you were one of a few "guinea pigs" singled out by Dean Bill Grogan to test the new project activities being incorporated into the WPI Plan. Your commitment was appreciated by WPI then and now, and we are proud to have the university name so ably carried into the forefront of the telecommunications industry.

Paul Lacouture, it is with great pride and appreciation that WPI awards you the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.