2001 Award Recipient

Robert C. Fuller ‘81

Bob Fuller, you began your career with GM Industries while a high school student, working in the stock room; upon graduation from WPI you joined the company full time. GM Industries was founded in 1969 by your father, Robert T. Fuller. With $3.5 million in sales, the company, a producer of custom-designed machine tools specializing in drilling machines and rebuilding machines, had prospered.

However, hurt by a recession, the company faltered in the 1980s. In 1989, along with your brother, Steven, you moved swiftly and purposefully to rescue this machine tool business. At a time when loyalty to companies had begun to wane, you had the drive and energy to guide a successful transition. Aptly renaming it Phoenix Inc., you aggressively took charge and rebuilt a company that today boasts annual sales of $7 million.

Now, as president, you oversee a company with a product that includes the largest vertical turning and milling machines manufactured in the United States. The strength of the company is its customer-driven, hands-on approach and its commitment to performance-driven design. It provides customers with innovative cost-effective machine tool solutions.

Bob Fuller, your record of achievement and determination has distinguished you among your peers. It is an honor to present you with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.