

Champion of Engineering Education Award – 2014

Douglas Ruth, P.Eng., PhD.



In a presentation Doug made when he was a candidate for Dean of the Faculty, he stated that his goal was to create an environment that would make the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Engineering the best engineering program on the planet. In the ensuing years he has worked tirelessly to enable the delivery of that goal.

As Dean, Doug established an environment in which new ideas could grow. He vigorously encouraged people to "take a chance" and do things differently. Among other innovations, he was the driving force behind the application for, and delivery of, the NSERC Design Engineering Chair. This Chair was established to improve the level and quality of design engineering activity within the University of Manitoba and to encourage a multidisciplinary view of design engineering.

Doug was also responsible for facilitating the creation and delivery of the ground-breaking Internationally Educated Engineer Qualification (IEEQ) program, an innovative pathway for internationally-educated engineers to meet academic licensing requirements for professional engineering practice in Manitoba.

Friends of Engineering (Manitoba) Inc., a unique group of Manitoba industry influencers and employers who share the U of M Faculty of Engineering's commitment to excellence in engineering education, was Doug's idea to keep key industry partners and alumni engaged with the faculty following the highly successful "Building on Strengths" capital campaign to build the Engineering & Information Technology Complex. The current mission of Friends is to be the strong, collective voice of Manitoba industry, advocating for the growth and health of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba to enable the Faculty to continue to provide the world-class engineering graduates necessary to sustain and grow the wealth of this province.

Doug's latest achievement is the establishment of the Centre for Engineering Professional Practice and Engineering Education at the University of Manitoba. This is the first non-research Centre on campus. Its mission is to ensure that graduating students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, have not only the academic knowledge but also the professional skills to pursue careers in the Profession of Engineering. The Centre will also provide a support system whereby academics can both improve their skills as engineering educators and further the scholarship of engineering education and engineering practice.

A graduate of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Manitoba in 1970, Doug has since been relentless in his commitment to the education of engineers in the province of Manitoba, and for that reason and many others, the Association, together with the Faculty of Engineering, is delighted to present the 2014 Champion of Engineering Education award, to Dr. Douglas Ruth.