2025 OREGON STATER AWARDS

College of Engineering

Oregon State University

2025
OREGON STATER AWARDS

6 p.m.

RECEPTION

7 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

KEYNOTE REMARKS
Forrest J. Masters, Kearney Dean of Engineering

DINNER SERVICE

COUNCIL OF OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER ENGINEERS
(pages 3-7)

ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERS
(pages 8-14)

ENGINEERING HALL OF FAME
(pages 15-17)

9 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
IMPACT OVERVIEW FY24

SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS

1,006

TOTAL AWARDED

$3 million

PHILANTHROPY

DONORS

1,977

TOTAL GIFTS

$24.2 million

RESEARCH FUNDING

AWARDS RECEIVED

318

SPONSORS

132

TOTAL FUNDING

$84.8M

TOP 10 **FOR THE 11TH STRAIGHT YEAR**

Oregon State has ranked in the Top 10 in the nation for online education by U.S. News & World Report every year since 2015.

11,128 **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**

NO. 1 **NUMBER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREES AWARDED BY AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE NATIONALLY**

NO. 7 **ENGINEERING SCHOOL NATIONWIDE BY UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT**

NO. 5 **PUBLIC R1 UNIVERSITIES IN PERCENTAGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY WHO ARE WOMEN**

Council of Outstanding Early Career Engineers

Presented to engineers who have distinguished themselves through their professional accomplishments, service to Oregon State University, the engineering profession, or society at large. These individuals have made early career contributions that identify them as rising leaders in their profession or field.

ERIN ACUÑA

B.S., MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, 2021

AEROPHYSICS ENGINEER, BLUE ORIGIN

Erin Acuña is an aerophysics engineer whose career has focused on advancing reusable aerospace systems and experimental aircraft. She currently works at Blue Origin, contributing to the aerodynamic design and analysis of next-generation reusable launch vehicles.

As a graduate of Oregon State University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Aerospace Engineering, Erin credits her undergraduate education as the foundation for her career in aerodynamics and vehicle design.

During her time on campus, she was actively involved in AIAA, where she led the High-Altitude Rocket Team, and discovered the satisfaction of solving complex technical problems through hands-on experimentation and collaboration.

Professionally, Erin has played a central role in shaping vehicle aerodynamics, with contributions spanning computational fluid dynamics, wind tunnel testing, and vehicle design integration with the other vehicle subsystems. Her work directly supports the development of fully reusable spaceflight systems.

Beyond her technical work, Erin is passionate about cross-disciplinary collaboration and mentoring younger engineers. She believes that advancing aerospace is as much about cultivating strong, innovative teams as it is about advancing technology itself.

“My time at Oregon State University gave me not just a foundation in engineering, but also the confidence to pursue challenges that once felt impossible,” she said. “Those years sparked the curiosity that continues to drive my career today.”

ALLYSON CALLAWAY

B.S., NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, 2010

M.S., NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, 2013

SENIOR MANAGER, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUSCALE POWER

Over her more than 15-year career at NuScale Power, Allyson Callaway has been a driving force behind the development and licensing of the company's small modular reactor technology.

Callaway's NuScale career began as a nuclear engineer and progressed through roles in analysis and management. She is a named inventor on multiple U.S. patents related to reactor core design and fuel management, underscoring her commitment to safety, performance, and operational flexibility. Her work balances innovation with regulatory compliance, enabling NuScale to deliver scalable, sustainable energy solutions.

As Senior Manager of Nuclear Fuels, she leads a multidisciplinary team of over 35 engineers responsible for core and fuel design, nuclear analysis, system thermal-hydraulics, and nuclear code development. Her leadership has been instrumental in securing two reactor design certifications from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission—an achievement that reflects years of technical innovation, strategic planning, and regulatory engagement.

A proud Oregon State University alumna, Callaway remains closely connected to the university, serving on the Nuclear Science and Engineering Industry Advisory Board.

"Oregon State gave me the technical foundation, problem-solving mindset, and most importantly the confidence to help shape the future of nuclear energy," she said.

TIANNA COBURN

B.S., CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, 2020

DATA & ANALYTICS ENGINEER, GENENTECH

Tianna Coburn is a rising leader in biotechnology and data engineering, currently serving as a Data & Analytics Engineer at Genentech's Hillsboro campus. Since graduating from Oregon State University in 2020, Coburn has rapidly advanced through roles in reliability engineering and procurement, now leading a regional data engineering team across three Genentech sites.

Coburn builds digital solutions that improve manufacturing efficiency and resource planning, including dashboards that visualize equipment performance and employee capacity.

She is also deeply committed to mentorship and outreach, serving at Genentech as the Hillsboro location's intern manager and MECOP representative as well as co-lead for the NextGen Hillsboro chapter and the Data Professionals Networking Forum. In this capacity, she has organized job shadow programs, site tours, and student engagement events. She was also a mentor for the Oregon Bio Women's Mentorship Program's 2024-2025 cohort.

Coburn's connection to Oregon State remains strong.

"Oregon State provided a breadth of opportunities and relationships that have had a lasting, overwhelmingly positive impact on my personal and professional life," she said. "The College of Engineering demonstrated to me how engineering is more than just solving technical problems—it's also integrating into my community and investing in the next generation."

MATTHEW R. JOHNSON

B.S., COMPUTER SCIENCE, 2017

VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING, GENERAC

Matthew Johnson is a dynamic engineering leader whose career spans military service, public safety, and cutting-edge clean energy innovation. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former police officer, Johnson earned his B.S. in computer science from Oregon State University, where he also contributed to the Open Source Lab and served as a corporate relations intern.

Now Vice President of Engineering at Generac, Johnson leads a 130-person team developing software and firmware for next-generation energy products, including home battery systems, solar microinverters, and smart thermostats. His work enables homeowners to manage energy production, storage, and consumption through seamless, integrated platforms.

"We're building the only system that delivers a complete home energy management experience - from solar to storage to smart thermostats," he said.

At Tesla, he led teams that designed and implemented next-generation massive-scale battery cell intelligent manufacturing software. In another role, he contributed to Supercharger 3 firmware development.

"Oregon State gave me the low-level systems training that allowed me to dive into firmware and hardware from day one," he said. "That foundation shaped my entire career."

Johnson remains engaged with Oregon State through participation in alumni panels, keynote addresses, recruiting efforts, and service on the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Industry Advisory Board.

MICHAEL KENNEDY

B.S., NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, 2007

SYSTEM ENGINEERING MANAGER, ENERGY NORTHWEST

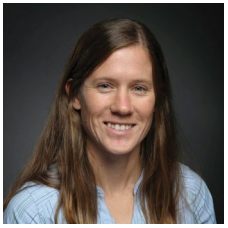
Mike Kennedy is a seasoned leader in the nuclear energy sector, currently serving as System Engineering Manager at Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station. Since beginning his career in 2007, Kennedy has held a range of technical and leadership roles, including Procurement Engineer, Probabilistic Safety Analysis Supervisor, Engineering Fix-It-Now Supervisor, Work Week Manager, and Work Control Manager. His broad experience has shaped his strategic approach to plant operations and equipment reliability.

Kennedy's contributions include developing Energy Northwest's Obsolescence Program, supporting international nuclear organizations in China and Japan, and leading cross-functional teams to implement a station-wide reliability strategy. Under his leadership, Columbia Generating Station has achieved two consecutive breaker-to-breaker runs with no shutdowns in over six years.

Kennedy credits his education at Oregon State for opening up opportunities that have shaped his career.

"Oregon State Engineering degrees are valued and respected in the industry," he said. "Through my time there I learned many skills that set me up to be not just an engineer but also a leader."

Kennedy holds a master's degree in nuclear engineering from Penn State and has completed multiple leadership development programs. He remains a respected figure in the industry and among Oregon State alumni, known for his integrity, technical excellence, and commitment to carbon-free, cost-effective energy.



ELLEN LAUCHNOR

PH.D., CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, 2011

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ellen Lauchnor is a nationally recognized environmental engineer whose research and teaching focus on sustainable water treatment solutions. En route to earning her 2011 Ph.D. degree from Oregon State University, she investigated the resilience and inhibition of bacteria that contributed to wastewater treatment.

Lauchnor is now an Associate Professor at Montana State University, where her work has centered on microbial and biofilm-driven processes for water quality improvement, such as for improved wastewater treatment and bioremediation of heavy metals in groundwater.

Her current research focuses on understanding microbial processes in engineered treatment wetlands, which are efficient, nature-based and low-cost wastewater treatment systems for decentralized locations. Her team's research has influenced policy and practice across Montana, with support from the Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Bozeman.

Lauchnor's outreach efforts include collaborations with tribal colleges and community-based environmental programs. She received MSU's Excellence in Outreach Award in 2020 and has helped develop a new B.S. program in environmental engineering.

"Attending Oregon State was a springboard to my professional career and my future research," Lauchnor said upon reflecting on her time at the university. "It broadened my perspective on the diversity of research within my discipline and significantly expanded my professional network."

WILL MAU

B.S., CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, 2017

SENIOR ESTIMATOR, FORTIS CONSTRUCTION

Will Mau is a rising leader in Oregon's construction industry, known for his technical expertise, mentorship, and dedication to student engagement. A 2017 graduate of Oregon State University's Construction Engineering Management program, Mau began his career with Fortis Construction, where he now serves as a Senior Estimator. His project portfolio includes major campus developments at OSU and the University of Oregon, including the Learning Innovation Center and the Hamilton Walton Transformation Project, respectively.

"I'm proud to have worked on LINC at OSU during my first summer with Fortis—a full-circle moment that connected my education with my professional journey," Mau said.

Mau's impact extends beyond the jobsite. Mau recently volunteered for Engineers in Action, traveling to Eswatini with his Fortis colleagues to help deliver a clean water project for a local school.

He also regularly participates in OSU career panels, mock interviews, and alumni outreach. Since 2019, he has served as the lead coach for OSU's Project Management Team in the ASC Reno Competition, guiding students to multiple top-three finishes, including two first-place wins.

"My time at OSU shaped my keen but nebulous interest in the engineering profession into a defined, purpose-driven focus on construction engineering and the built environment," Mau said. "Having benefitted so much from that environment, returning to campus and giving back to students feels like the natural thing to do."

ALLISON VAN HORN

H.B.S., MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, 2022

H.B.S., MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING, 2022

MECHANICAL ENGINEER 2, LAM RESEARCH

Allison Van Horn is a rising star in the semiconductor industry, currently serving as a Mechanical Engineer at Lam Research. A 2022 graduate of Oregon State University with double honors degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering, Van Horn has already made significant contributions to advanced technology development.

At Intel, she led the mechanical design for the company's first fully integrated optical I/O chiplet—a breakthrough in AI computing—earning a Group Recognition Award and contributing to a patent filing. This optical I/O chiplet technology was showcased at major semiconductor conferences in 2024. In a separate project, her work delivered an estimated $7.3 million in cost savings for Intel's data center CPU product line.

"This optical I/O chiplet innovation represents a major technological advancement in the AI computing space," Van Horn said.

Now at Lam Research, she designs and tests hardware systems for the SABRE product, which enables copper deposition in semiconductor manufacturing.

Van Horn's OSU experience was deeply formative.

"The College of Engineering at OSU is a place of innovation, collaboration, and connection. It cultivates engineers with a genuine sense of empathy, a respect for people from all walks of life, and a deep hunger for invention," she said. "The support system and friendships I found within the halls of the College of Engineering were the greatest blessing I could have asked for."

SAMIRA ZALI ASL

M.ENG., ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING, 2012

PH.D., ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING, 2015

VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING, FERRIC INC.

Samira Zaliasl's career spans over 15 years of innovation in integrated circuits, system architecture, and product development. As Vice President of Engineering at Ferric Inc., she leads the development of high-efficiency power converters for high-performance computing systems, including the densest 48V converter in the industry.

Zaliasl's career has included impactful roles at imec in the Netherlands and SiTime Corporation in Silicon Valley, where she helped develop ultra-low-power biomedical devices and MEMS-based timing solutions. Her work has led to numerous publications in top-tier journals and conferences, multiple U.S. patents, and first-silicon successes—rare achievements in semiconductor design.

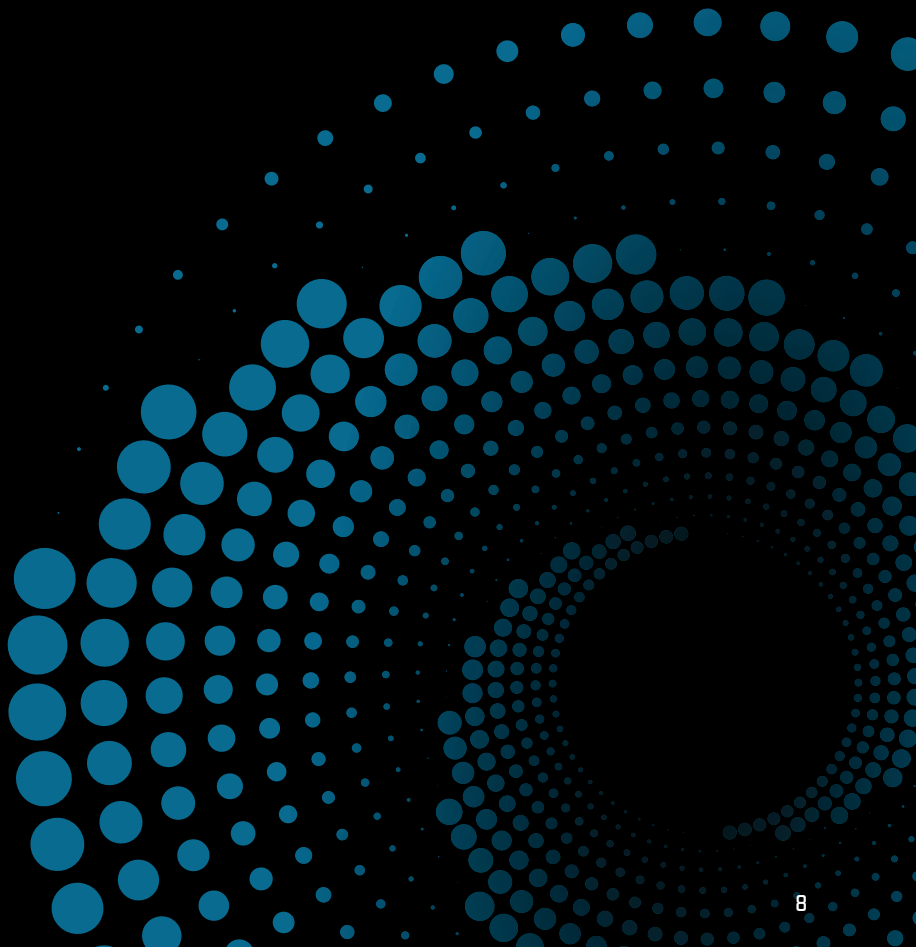
She has also played a visible role in the global electronics community, serving on IEEE technical committees, chairing sessions at ISSCC and VLSI, and contributing to the IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society through mentorship and strategic planning. Her ability to guide teams through cutting-edge design challenges, while fostering collaboration and mentorship, has been a hallmark of her career.

Zaliasl earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in electrical engineering from Oregon State University, where she explored architectural solutions for analog imperfections in delta-sigma ADC systems.

"Oregon State gave me the space to explore bold ideas, fail safely, and grow into the kind of engineer who can turn research into real impact," she said.

Academy of Distinguished Engineers

Presented to mid-career engineers who have made sustained, distinguished contributions to their profession, their field, Oregon State University, or society at large.



RAJEEV BADYAL

B.S., ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING, 1987

M.S., ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING, 1992

VICE PRESIDENT OF TECHNOLOGY, AMAZON PROJECT KUIPER

Rajeev Badyal's career in satellite communications and consumer technology has shaped the way tens of millions of people connect and interact with the world. As Vice President of Technology and Head of Project Kuiper at Amazon, Badyal leads a $10 billion initiative to deploy a constellation of over 3,200 low Earth orbit satellites, bringing high-speed broadband to underserved communities globally.

"For the past seven years, I've been at Amazon leading Project Kuiper—an advanced LEO system aiming to bring fast, reliable internet to customers and communities around the world," he said. "The potential impact is enormous, and it will definitely stand out as my proudest professional achievement to date."

Badyal's career began as a chip designer, followed by engineering leadership roles at Hewlett-Packard and Microsoft, where he earned patents for integrated thermal inkjet printheads and chips used in optical mice — technologies still in use today. He holds more than 30 patents overall and is recognized for his ability to transform complex challenges into practical solutions.

"My experience at Oregon State set me on a path to continuously learn and be curious about technology," he said. "What began in the classroom became the cornerstone of my career journey."

Prior to Amazon, Badyal served as Vice President of Satellites and Rocket Avionics at SpaceX, playing a pivotal role in the Starlink project, which aims to deliver global internet coverage through a vast satellite constellation. His expertise and leadership have earned him a seat on the National Space Council Users' Advisory Group, where he advises on U.S. space policy and strategy.

Badyal credits the College of Engineering for providing the foundational tools and problem-solving mindset that have guided his career.

"The faculty is incredible — they're inspiring and so dedicated to their profession — and you're not just learning engineering fundamentals," he said. "You're also learning practical skills that allow you to operate and succeed in the industry after graduation. On a personal level, I met my wife at OSU, and we've been married since."

SEUNGYEOL HAN

PH.D., CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, 2011

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT SCIENTIST, PELLUCERE TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Seungyeol Han is a pioneering chemical engineer whose work bridges academic innovation and commercial impact. With over 15 years of experience in sol-gel chemistry, nanoparticle formulation, and scalable optical coatings, Han has helped redefine how advanced materials are deployed in real-world applications.

Han began his U.S. research journey in 2004 as a visiting scholar at Oregon State University, later earning his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. His doctoral work focused on solution-processed oxide semiconductors and dielectric materials—research that laid the foundation for launching CSD Nano, a Corvallis-based startup co-founded during his time at OSU. There, Han led the development of MoreSun™, a sunlight-curable antireflective coating that boosts solar panel efficiency through field application, eliminating the need for factory processing. This breakthrough technology has been deployed across the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

As Chief Scientist, Han guided CSD Nano's evolution into Pellucere Technologies, securing venture funding and spearheading strategic growth, including acquisitions in Arkansas and Germany and the establishment of a manufacturing facility in India. Now based in Springdale, Arkansas, Han continues to lead product development as a Senior Development Scientist, driving innovation in coatings for solar, automotive, and industrial applications.

"The development and commercialization of the MoreSun™ coating stands out as the most meaningful project of my career," Han said. "Seeing solar panels across different continents benefit from something I helped create from scratch has been deeply rewarding."

Han's career reflects a deep commitment to collaborative problem-solving and entrepreneurial thinking. He remains closely connected to OSU's College of Engineering, contributing to DOE Solar Prize projects and mentoring students through showcase events. His work has not only advanced the solar industry but also demonstrated how high-performance materials can be both scientifically rigorous and operationally practical.

"The OSU College of Engineering doesn't just teach you how to solve problems, it teaches you how to see them in ways others don't. It's a place where innovation is encouraged, interdisciplinary thinking is normal, and ideas are supported all the way from conception to commercialization," Han said. "On a personal level, OSU also became a second home, it gave me mentors, lifelong friends, and the clarity to pursue a meaningful career."

LAUREN HOLMES

B.S., CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT, 2005

PROJECT EXECUTIVE, LEASE CRUTCHER LEWIS

Lauren Holmes is a dynamic leader in Oregon's construction industry, known for her technical expertise, mentorship, and strong commitment to advancing women in construction. With nearly two decades of experience, she currently serves as a Project Executive at Lease Crutcher Lewis, where she oversees complex civic projects across the Pacific Northwest.

Holmes has led the successful delivery of high-profile, technically demanding projects including the Oregon Humane Society's Community Veterinary Hospital and the State of Oregon's North Valley Complex. Her leadership on these projects has demonstrated her ability to unite diverse teams and deliver innovative solutions under pressure.

The project she is most proud of in her career is the construction of the Oregon Zoo's polar bear, primate, and rhino habitats.

"Bringing these habitats to life demanded innovative engineering solutions and careful consideration of animal welfare," Holmes said. "It has truly changed my outlook on life and has led me to continue to build for animals and the community in which I live."

Beyond project delivery, Holmes is a passionate mentor and advocate. She founded and now chairs the Women's Development Group at Lease Crutcher Lewis, fostering mentorship and professional growth for women across the company. Her service extends to the broader community through her leadership in the National Association of Women in Construction and her current role on the City of Beaverton Planning Commission.

"When I started in the industry, women were few and far between—especially those I could look to as mentors or role models to emulate," Holmes said. "It has been my focus and goal to be a mentor and role model for the women that are coming behind me in their careers."

Holmes has coached the Oregon State University's Mixed-Use Team in the ASC student competition for over 15 years, helping students apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges. She also serves on the OSU Construction Education Foundation board and leads her company's OSU recruitment efforts, ensuring students are supported from classroom to career.

"The College of Engineering is like a family to me," Holmes said. "I truly believe that everyone in this group wants to do what they can to support and see students develop and grow in their education and their professional lives."

PETER KOONCE

B.S., CIVIL ENGINEERING, 1995

DIVISION MANAGER, SIGNALS, STREETLIGHTING & INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

Peter Koonce's career in transportation engineering has been defined by innovation, collaboration, and a deep commitment to public service. With over 25 years of experience, he currently leads the Signals, Streetlighting, and Intelligent Transportation Systems Division at the Portland Bureau of Transportation, managing a team of more than 60 professionals and overseeing a $20 million annual budget.

Koonce's leadership has transformed Portland's transportation infrastructure. He directed the city's LED streetlight retrofit—Portland's largest ongoing energy efficiency initiative—saving over $2.4 million annually. His work integrates sustainability, equity, and multimodal safety, including pioneering nearside bicycle signals and advanced light rail preemption strategies for the Portland to Milwaukie Light Rail project.

"The effort reflected a forward-thinking approach to designing the urban place in a way that prioritizes connectivity for all users," Koonce said.

Before joining PBOT, Koonce served as a principal engineer at Kittelson & Associates, where he led multimillion-dollar transit and signal system projects across North America. He is a sought-after expert in traffic signal operations and policy, serving on the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Institute of Transportation Engineers' International Board of Direction.

Koonce's dedication to education and mentorship is equally impactful. As an adjunct professor at Portland State University, he taught transportation engineering applications. He regularly supports Oregon State University students through lectures, internships, and advisory roles and helped launch Oregon's first civil engineering study abroad program focused on sustainable transportation in The Netherlands.

"One of my most meaningful contributions to the field has been adapting proven concepts from The Netherlands to the U.S. context, helping to reshape how we think about safety and multimodal mobility," Koonce said.

Koonce says his time at OSU helped him build lifelong friendships and a deep appreciation for the importance of community—both of which continue to influence how he leads.

"My education at OSU helped me grow an understanding of how to create more equitable and sustainable transportation systems, providing the building blocks for leadership roles in my career," he said. "I continue to be inspired by the caliber of College of Engineering graduates and the incredible potential of today's students walking through Kearney Hall."

PIYUSH SABHARWALL, PH.D.

M.S., NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, 2005

DISTINGUISHED STAFF SCIENTIST
DOE MICROREACTOR PROGRAM
– TECHNICAL AREA LEAD
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

Piyush Sabharwall is a nationally recognized nuclear engineer whose career spans over two decades of innovation, leadership, and impact in advanced reactor technologies. As a Distinguished Staff Scientist at Idaho National Laboratory, he leads the Irradiation Experiment Thermal-Hydraulics Analysis Department, guiding research that supports nuclear fuels, materials, and next-generation reactor development.

Sabharwall's expertise in thermal-hydraulics, heat transfer, and energy systems has positioned him as a key contributor to U.S. Department of Energy programs, including the Microreactor R&D Program and the Holtec SMR-160 Advanced Reactor Demonstration Project. He played a pivotal role in designing the gas-cooled cartridge loop for the Versatile Test Reactor, a project that tackled extreme engineering challenges and exemplified technical excellence.

His influence extends beyond INL. Sabharwall has authored over 400 peer-reviewed publications, contributed to multiple books, and holds several patents in heat exchanger and sensor technologies. He serves as an adjunct professor at Texas A&M University and the University of Michigan.

"My work is helping shape the future of the nuclear engineering field. At INL, I support a variety of research initiatives through both modeling and experimental work," Sabharwall said. "As an adjunct faculty member, I'm hoping that my combination of hands-on work and mentorship leaves a lasting, positive impact on the field."

Sabharwall's leadership within the American Nuclear Society includes serving as Technical Program Chair for major conferences and co-founding the Advanced Reactor Group cohort.

Over the years, Sabharwall's contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including the Asian American Engineer of the Year Award (2022) and multiple honors from ANS and ASME.

Reflecting on his time at Oregon State University, Sabharwall credits the College of Engineering for instilling the technical rigor and collaborative mindset that continue to guide his work.

"OSU had a profound influence on both my professional and personal journey," Sabharwall said. "Academically, it gave me a strong foundation in nuclear engineering, preparing me to both understand conventional reactor technologies and contribute to next-generation energy systems. Personally, it fostered resilience, a growth mindset, and lifelong connections with peers and mentors who continue to inspire and support me."

CORDELL TIETZ

B.S., MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, 1988

PRESIDENT, CHARTER MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

Cordell Tietz is a visionary leader in the mechanical contracting industry whose career spans more than three decades of innovation, growth, and service. A 1988 graduate of Oregon State University's College of Engineering, Tietz began his professional journey in aerospace engineering at Allied Signal, contributing to space-based cryogenic cooler projects. In 1991, he transitioned into construction, joining Fullman Company, where he rose through the ranks from Project Engineer to Vice President, managing complex projects across the U.S. and internationally, many of which were part of the growth in semiconductor manufacturing plants in the 1990s.

In 2006, Tietz co-founded Charter Mechanical Contractors, Inc., a Portland-based firm built on the principle that treating employees and customers well leads to lasting success. Under his leadership as President since 2017, Charter Mechanical has grown into one of the top mechanical contractors in the Northwest, completing $280 million in projects in 2024 and ranking 40th nationally by Engineering News-Record. The company has employed over 800 people and is known for its excellence in semiconductor piping systems, including ultra-pure water systems.

"I have had the opportunity to work on amazing construction projects," Tietz said. "The career accomplishment that I am most proud of is working with a group of founders and key employees to build a company that takes exceptional care of our employees and customers."

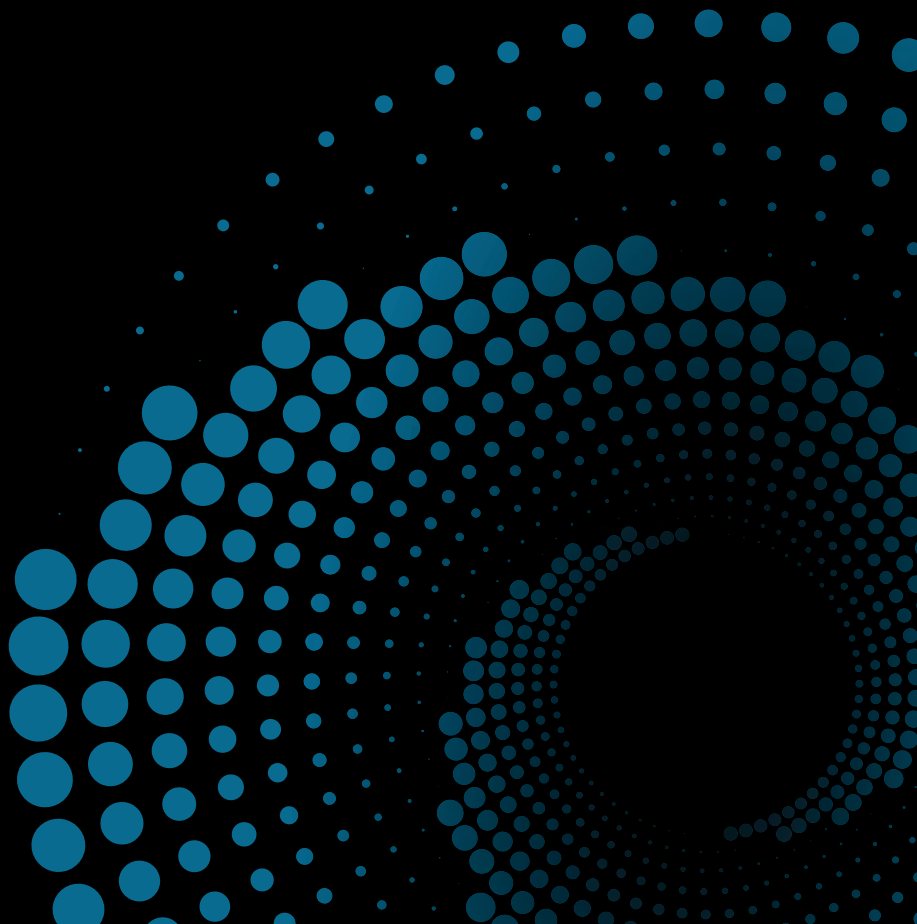
Tietz's commitment to safety, quality, and people-first leadership has earned him respect across the industry. He has served on boards and trusts for the Mechanical Contractors Association of America, the United Association of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry, and OSU's MIME Industry Advisory Board.

Reflecting on his time at Oregon State, Tietz said he enrolled in the College of Engineering to gain the skills needed to get a job. "I obtained those skills and so much more," he added.

"My time at OSU affected my life in nearly every way. I learned how to think analytically through challenging problems, made lifelong friends, and began long relationships with the Oregon State Beavers and, most importantly, my lovely wife."

Engineering Hall of Fame

Presented to a distinguished leader in recognition of their sustained, meritorious professional accomplishments and leadership contributions in the field of engineering. This award celebrates both the professional and the personal achievements of the honoree.



Engineering Hall of Fame

ABHI YESHAWANT TALWALKAR

B.S., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, 1985

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, LAM RESEARCH CORPORATION

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, IRHYTHM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

FORMER PRESIDENT & CEO, LSI CORPORATION

Abhi Talwalkar is a transformative leader in the global technology industry whose career spans nearly four decades of innovation, strategic growth, and board-level influence. A 1985 graduate of Oregon State University's Electrical Engineering program, Talwalkar has built a legacy of leadership across semiconductor, computing, and emerging technology sectors.

Talwalkar served as President and CEO of LSI Corporation from 2005 until its merger with Avago Technologies in 2014. Under his leadership, LSI evolved into a global powerhouse in semiconductors and storage solutions, driving innovation in data centers, networking, and enterprise computing. During his tenure, he also served as a Board Director for the Semiconductor Industry Association and represented the United States at the World Semiconductor Council, helping shape global policy and collaboration in the tech sector.

Prior to LSI, Talwalkar spent 12 years at Intel Corporation, where he held multiple senior executive roles, including Corporate Vice President and Co-General Manager of the Digital Enterprise Group. He led business units responsible for client, server, storage, and communications technologies, overseeing more than $24 billion in annual revenue.

Just before this role, Talwalkar was Vice President and General Manager of the Intel Enterprise Platform Group, where he focused on developing, marketing, and driving Intel's business strategies for enterprise computing, with revenues over $5 billion. Prior to Intel, Mr. Talwalkar held senior engineering and marketing roles at Sequent Computer Systems, Bipolar Integrated Technology, Inc., and Lattice Semiconductor Inc.

At just 29 years old, Talwalkar was a critical leader in the development of the industry's first x86 multi-processor server platform —a breakthrough that redefined enterprise computing and laid the foundation for today's cloud and hyperscale data centers.

"Leading the drive to establish x86 servers as the de facto standard in cloud and hyperscale data centers remains one

of my most enduring professional achievements," he said. "Over time, these x86 servers overtook the dominance of RISC-based systems from Sun, HP Apollo, and Digital Equipment, ultimately becoming the backbone of 99% of the internet, advanced computing, and enterprise cloud solutions."

Talwalkar's influence continues through his board service. He is Chairman of the Board at Lam Research and iRhythm Technologies and serves on the boards of Advanced Micro Devices and TE Connectivity. His oversight spans sectors including AI computing, semiconductor manufacturing, electric vehicles, and digital health.

"As a Board Director for public companies positioned at pivotal points of industry transformation, my work today plays a direct role in shaping the future across sectors ranging from AI computing and advanced semiconductor manufacturing to electric vehicles and innovative healthcare solutions," he said. "The collective success of these companies not only delivers value to shareholders, but also enables transformative investments that extend lives, slow climate change, and increase global productivity."

Beyond industry, Talwalkar is deeply committed to social impact. He co-founded and chairs the Bay Area chapter of Friends of the Children, a national nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of generational poverty through long-term mentorship. His leadership in this space reflects a belief in engineering not just as a technical discipline, but as a tool for societal progress.

Talwalkar's journey began at Oregon State University, where the Electrical Engineering program laid the foundation for his career.

"Facing a high academic bar to advance into the third year of the program motivated me to form new friendships and lean into collaboration," he said. "Navigating the program's emphasis on individual responsibility pushed me to become exceptionally resourceful, a trait that's proven invaluable throughout my career."

Talwalkar credits OSU with instilling the analytical rigor and problem-solving mindset that have guided his professional path.

"Oregon State University didn't just shape my career with rigorous problem-solving—it gave me the courage to be resourceful, the drive to collaborate, and the perfect setting to make a lifelong community of friends who inspire me every day."
- Abhi Y. Talwalkar

Talwalkar has remained closely connected to OSU, serving on the College of Engineering Dean's Leadership Council and supporting initiatives that foster student success and industry engagement. His career exemplifies the values of the Engineering Hall of Fame—visionary leadership, technical excellence, and a commitment to advancing both industry and society.

UPCOMING COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING 2025/2026 EVENTS

Graduate Engineering Research Showcase

April 2, 2026

Oregon State Engineers are creating a better future here and now, through vital research that tackles some of humanity's greatest challenges. The Graduate Engineering Research Showcase offers an exciting glimpse of that future, presented by some of the brilliant, creative minds who are helping to make it happen.

Engineering Expo

June 5, 2026

The 2026 Engineering Expo will feature interactive design project displays created and hosted by more than 1,200 senior engineering students. Project topics cover the breadth of engineering challenges, including robotics, clean water, nuclear energy, virtual reality, construction innovation, and much more.

Event Calendar

engineering.oregonstate.edu/events

Oregon State University
College of Engineering