

Champion of Engineering Education

D'Arcy Phillips



D'Arcy Phillips formed and served as CEO of the Manitoba Aerospace Human Resources Coordinating Committee (MAHRCC). Traditionally MAHRCC focused on the trades and their education, which led Mr. Phillips to visit the University of Manitoba to determine how to improve communication between the Aerospace Industry, and the Faculty of Engineering. At that point in time, virtually all of the relationships between the faculty and the aerospace industry involved research. The Faculty had developed the Aerospace Option in Mechanical Engineering with some input from the industry, but more “connection” was required.

Mr. Phillips conceived of the idea of developing the Manitoba Aerospace Engineering Liaison Group (MAELG), made up of MAHRCC, Standard Aero, Bristol and Boeing. Each of these four partners now provide \$20,000 annually in support of the Design Chair, and finances an Engineer-in-Residence who is their prime contact on campus. MAELG representatives meet with appropriate academic staff a minimum of three times per year to discuss all aspects of the relationship and this has influenced course content, laboratory equipment acquisition, summer employment, graduate employment, support for student competitions, and increased the number and variety of Capstone projects submitted by the aerospace industry.

Communications and understanding between the Faculty of Engineering and the aerospace industry has improved greatly, due in no small part to Mr. Phillip’s insight and passion. The MAELG has been so beneficial to all involved, the group is currently discussing extending the relationship for an additional six years, and current members have identified other companies that might benefit from participation.

While Mr. Phillips has stepped down from his position at MAHRCC, the MAELG, and the relationships it has generated, would not exist if it was not for his sincere desire to see Manitoba’s aerospace industry grow together with the Faculty of Engineering.

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba, together with the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba, are grateful to Mr. Phillips for his efforts, and feel he is a worthy recipient of the Champion of Engineering Education Award.