Diverse Engineering Students Today for Diversity in our Future Engineering Profession

From a university perspective, it is clear that to promote a future diverse engineering workforce, we need diversity among current engineering students. More importantly, university engineering programs strive to graduate the highest calibre engineers in which the skills associated with innovation, design, creativity, and problem solving are maximized. Heterogeneity as opposed to homogeneity among engineering students is more apt to building into graduates the multiple perspectives required for creatively designing the innovative solutions needed to address the myriad of societal issues to which engineers are asked to contribute.

This session will provide an overview of why diversity is enshrined in the vision statement of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba, and will explore the multiple initiatives designed to ensure that participants increasingly reflect societal diversity.

Speaker: Jonathan Beddoes, P.Eng.

Dr. Jonathan Beddoes, P.Eng., Dean, Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba, has an engineering career that includes industrial product and process development, research in industrial and government laboratories, as well as extensive experience in academia. Prior to joining the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba in 2011, for eighteen years he was a faculty member in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Carleton University, Ottawa, including six years as Department Chair. He has taught engineering courses at all levels from first year to graduate studies. Before joining academia he worked at Pratt & Whitney Canada Inc., and Alcan Aluminium for ten years. His research interests have included high strength aluminum alloys for aircraft applications, casting and processing of aluminum for high value added sheet products, processing/recycling of Al-Si alloys, and high temperature materials for gas turbine applications. He is the (co-)author of more than 60 research papers, three patents and two books dealing with industrial processing of engineering materials.