



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

**Katherine Pearsall, Ph.D., P.E.**  
*Charter Member*

BSME, The University of Texas at El Paso 1971  
MSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1979  
PhD., ME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1983

*Distinguished Engineer (Retired)*  
IBM Academy of Technology, Emeritus Member

Dr. Kitty Pearsall graduated with a BS in metallurgical engineering from UT El Paso in 1971. She briefly attended graduate school but decided that she wanted to enter the workforce. While at UT El Paso, Kitty was inducted into Tau Beta Pi and Alpha Sigma Mu. In 1970 Kitty was recognized as a “Woman of Mines and Metallurgy”.

In 1972, Kitty joined IBM and continued her education at UT Austin. At UT Kitty was a research and teaching assistant. During this time, she received both her MS and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. She was recognized in 1979 for her “Exemplary Performance for Engineering Teaching as a Graduate Student”.

During her 41 years at IBM Austin, Kitty was a process consultant and subject matter expert on materials, manufacturing processes, product qualification and supply chain for components and systems. She engaged with WW teams implementing strategic initiatives for cross-brand, cross commodity processes and products that delivered high quality/high reliability product. Her experience as both a technical leader and executive at IBM was recognized both in and outside of the company. Kitty was elected to the IBM Academy of Technology (2005) and elevated to a distinguished engineer. Kitty holds 12 US Patents, 9 IP disclosures, and numerous publications. She was the 6th recipient of the Fran E. Allen IBM Women in Technology Mentoring Award (2006).

Her top three career achievements include:

1. Ensured the 19 IBM WW ECAT Manufacturing facilities were CFC free three years before the Montreal compliance date of YE 1995 for developed countries.
2. Defined, documented and implemented best practices for suppliers based on two co-authored patents “A method and system for providing an E2E Business Process for Electronic Supplier Qualification and Quality Management” and “Interactive Display Survey for Suppliers ...” that is used to assess the maturity level of an OEM supplier for best supplier selection.
3. Provided IBM consultancy for component suppliers and supplier OEMs and enabled them to assess and benchmark their qualification and supply chain practices, define needed best practices, and integrate and implement these into their manufacturing process and supply chains.

As a Senior member of IEEE, Kitty has more than 22 years’ experience with the IEEE Electronic Component and Technology Conference (ECTC) in many different roles and is currently on the Executive Committee. Kitty also serves on the CPMT Board of Governors since 2005.

Kitty and Von Pearsall and their sons, Patrick and Robert, have all graduated from UT Austin.