



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Michael M. Khonsari, Ph.D.

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2016

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1978

MSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1979

Ph.D., ME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1983

Dow Chemical Endowed Chair and Professor
Louisiana State University

Michael Khonsari holds the Dow Chemical Endowed Chair in Rotating Machinery and is a professor of mechanical engineering at Louisiana State University (LSU). Prior to joining LSU, he spent a number of years as a faculty member at The Ohio State University, University of Pittsburgh, and served as the chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Energy Processes at Southern Illinois University. He has also served as a research Faculty Fellow at NASA Lewis Research Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force laboratories, and the U.S. Department of Energy. In February 2003, Michael was appointed to concurrently serve as the EPSCoR project director and associate commissioner for Sponsored Research & Development Programs at the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Michael's research is in the area of tribology—the science and application of lubrication, friction, and wear—and fatigue and damage analysis. He is the holder of 8 U.S. patents, has authored over 275 archival papers, 50 book chapters & special publications, and 3 technical books. His latest book, *Applied Tribology*, published in its 3rd Edition, is widely used as a textbook at many universities and is a major reference book in the industry. He is the recipient of several research awards, including the ASME Mayo Hersey Award, the Burt Newkirk Award, the STLE Presidential Award, ALCOA awards for his contributions to tribology, and the LSU College of Engineering Outstanding Research Award. He is the editor-in-chief for ASME Journal of Tribology and

serves on the Editorial Board of 8 other technical journals. Michael is a Fellow of ASME, STLE, and AAAS.

Michael has led several large multidisciplinary teams of scientists and engineers that worked collaboratively on funded research of national innovative and scientific importance. He has been principal investigator of research grants and contracts totaling over \$110M (mostly from NSF). He has directly supervised and mentored over 70 Ph.D., MS, and post-doctoral students and scholars.

Michael is appointed by the governor to serve on the Louisiana Innovation Council, whose mission is “to establish a comprehensive economic strategy and innovation agenda that will grow the state's economy and enhance competitiveness.” He helps guide the development of the research agenda for Louisiana's most recent master plan for higher education, which promotes intra- and inter-campus multidisciplinary research and education, and was a participant in crafting the State's Science and Technology Plan: Fostering Innovation through Research in Science and Technology. This plan calls for investments in areas of research that are aligned with specific high-growth target industries. To this end, Michael has had a major role in developing programs for research and development partnerships between academia and industry. Michael is married to Karen Khonsari and they have three sons: Maxwell, Milton, and Mason.