



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Milton B. Lee, II, P.E.

Mechanical Engineering Hall of Fame, 2016

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1971

CEO (Retired 2010)

CPS Energy

Milton Lee's extensive career in the electric energy industry spanned 40 years. To prepare him for this journey, his parents insisted he earn a high school diploma and college degree. He was raised on a farm in Southeast Travis County until the family moved to Austin in 1959. His education in Austin began in the fifth grade through graduation from Stephen F. Austin High school in 1966.

He enrolled in The University of Texas at Austin in the fall of 1966 to study mechanical and nuclear engineering. After his graduation in 1971, Milton was recruited to join General Electric Company in San Francisco, California for assignments in San Jose, California (engineer in Nuclear Steam Supply Systems and Nuclear Fuels); Boston, Massachusetts (Medium Steam Turbine and Gas Turbine); and Schenectady, New York (Large Steam Turbine). In 1976, Milton was recruited to join the newly created Texas Public Utility Commission in Austin as an Electric Utility Engineer and Expert Witness where he testified on Electric Energy Issues.

Beginning in 1984, Milton spent the next 16 years in various leadership roles with Austin Energy

and Lower Colorado River Authority in Generation Planning, Fuels Procurement and Transportation, Transmission Planning, and Regulatory responsibilities. He became chief operating officer and general manager at Austin Energy in the 1990s.

In 2000, Milton was recruited to join CPS Energy in San Antonio, Texas as senior vice president of electric transmission and distribution systems, where he became general manager and CEO in 2002 until his retirement in 2010.

Milton was the commencement speaker at the 2010 UT Cockrell School of Engineering Graduation, where he challenged graduates with this statement, "Don't be so absorbed in your work that you forget to see what is going on out in the world" and, taking a statement from the advice of one of his professors, "Life happens fast and you will miss it if you don't make a point to participate". Lee has been a member of the UT Engineering Advisory Board since 1985 and a Life Member of the UT Alumni Association, and remains active in the recruitment of Black and Hispanic students to attend The University of Texas at Austin Cockrell School of Engineering.