



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Bryan D. Willson, Ph.D.

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2018

BSME, Texas A&M University, 1982

MSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1985

Ph.D. ME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1988

Professor

Colorado State University

Dr. Bryan Willson is Executive Director of the Energy Institute at Colorado State University where he also occupies the Bryan Willson Presidential Chair in Energy Innovation and serves as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering. CSU's Energy Institute comprises over 180 faculty members working in energy and works closely with the Colorado energy startup community to help grow clean energy companies. The Energy Institute is headquartered at CSU's Powerhouse Energy Campus, a 100,000 sq ft research facility that also houses over 15 early stage energy companies; it's work on cleantech commercialization has been honored by the Economist, Scientific American, the Smithsonian Institution, university technology transfer associations, and the governments of Denmark, Spain, and China. Dr. Willson served as a Program

Director at ARPA-E (Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy), from 2012-2016 and continues to serve as a consultant / advisor to the agency. He has worked for over 25 years to develop and deploy large-scale technology solutions related to energy, air quality, and human health. As an entrepreneur, Dr. Willson is co-founder of Envirofit International, Solix BioSystems Factor(e) Ventures and Xpower. His research laboratory, the Engines & Energy Conversion Laboratory, has made important contributions in many areas, including: internal combustion engines, oil & gas production technology, advanced electrical grids, advanced biofuels, energy technology for the developing world, and advanced building technologies. Dr. Willson is a Fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers and has worked in over 40 countries.