



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Ernest Linn Draper, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.

Honorary Mechanical Engineer, 2017

BA ChemE, Rice University, 1964

BS ChemE, Rice University, 1965

Ph.D., Nuclear Engineering, Cornell University, 1970

Chairman, President, and CEO (Retired)
American Electric Power Company, Inc.

E. Linn Draper, Jr. is the retired chairman, president and CEO of American Electric Power Co. He served in that capacity for 12 years. Prior to AEP, Draper was with Gulf States Utilities for 13 years, where he held a variety of technical and administrative positions including chairman, president and CEO for the last 6 years. He began his career at The University of Texas at Austin, where he was director of the Nuclear Reactor Laboratory and the nuclear engineering program for 10 years.

Draper has been a member of the Board of Directors of eleven New York Stock Exchange listed companies, including current service at Alliance Data Systems and NorthWestern Energy, where he is non-executive chairman of the board.

Draper is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas, where he served as president. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas.

Draper is the author of a number of technical publications and the editor of two books.

During his professional career, he served as president or chairman of the following organizations: the American Nuclear Society (ANS), the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), the Electric Power Research Institute

(EPRI), the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Nuclear Utility Management and Resources Council (NUMARC), the Association of Electric Companies of Texas (AECT), the National Coal Council (NCC), the Ohio Business Round table (OBRT), and the Simon Kenton Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He is a member of the Cornell University Council, The University of Texas Engineering Advisory Board, and The University of Texas Energy Institute Advisory Board. He served two terms as a member of the Board of Governors for the Argonne National Laboratory. He was a member of the Board of Governors for the Nature Conservancy and Resources for the Future.

Dr. Draper is an Eagle Scout and a Distinguished Eagle Scout, an award presented to Eagle Scouts who after 25 years have distinguished themselves in their life work and have shared their talents with their communities on a voluntary basis.

He was educated at Williams College, Rice University (B.A. - 1964, B.S. - 1965) and Cornell University (PhD -1970).

Linn and his wife Debby have been married since 1962. They have 4 children and 9 grandchildren. They divide their time between Texas and the Adirondack Mountains of New York.