



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## **Jerri Paul**

*Outstanding Young Mechanical Engineer, 2004*

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1995

MSMSE, The University of Texas at Austin, 1997

MBA, The University of Texas at Austin, 1997

*Director, IT Enterprise Architecture & Strategy*  
Dell EMC

Jerri Paul was born in Clovis and grew up in New Mexico's rural agricultural communities, where she participated in 4-H and FFA. In grade school, her math teacher encouraged Jerri's mom to support her interests in math and science. During high school, Jerri participated in the Introduction to Engineering summer program at Notre Dame University, which cemented her career aspirations.

Jerri transferred from community college into The University of Texas at Austin to study mechanical engineering. She was awarded the Nina M. Woolrich Endowed Presidential Scholarship and was accepted into the Applied Research Labs (ARL) Honors Scholars Program. Jerri had summer internships at Ford's design center in Dearborn, Michigan and at ARL. During the school year, she worked as an assistant in the turbine engine lab, lab instructor, IC2 Institute and the Austin Technology Incubator. She was also active in student organizations (ASME, Pi Tau Sigma, Tau Beta Pi, SAE, SWE). Jerri was recognized for her student contributions with the inaugural UT ME Student Leadership Award in 1995.

Upon receiving her BSME (1995), Jerri received an appointment to an International Atomic Energy Agency program as a research assistant in Cadarache, France to conduct nuclear reactor core modeling. Afterwards, she returned to UT to complete her MS in manufacturing systems engineering and MBA in operations management while working full time and conducting her thesis research. In June 1997, Jerri began working as a design engineer at Ford Motor Company, where she completed a leadership program working in Chassis Engineering, Powertrain Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, and Lincoln Marketing. In 1999, she accepted a position as manufacturing

engineer representing the Jaguar S-type. In 2000, she transferred to Jaguar's Coventry, England facility working in vehicle engineering for the Jaguar F-type. Jerri led Ford's UT engineering recruiting team, which was recognized by Ford in 2000 and by UT in 2001.

In 2002, Jerri returned to central Texas to work with angel investors, entrepreneurs and start-ups. She was recruited as president and CEO of a start-up software company providing an electronic healthcare records solution, where she executed a turn-around leading to the sale of the company. In 2007, Jerri joined Dell, Inc., where she led a Federal Compliance Program, a Business Architecture Team, and acquisition integrations. She is currently a director, IT enterprise architecture & strategy, working as a lead on the Dell EMC Integration.

Throughout her career, Jerri has embraced giving back through her support of local non-profits, Texas Exes, and Friends of Alec. In 1999, she endowed a scholarship focused on women in mechanical engineering. She served four years on the UT ME External Advisory Committee and was the first woman chairperson. Since 2004, Jerri has served on the UT Engineering Advisory Board (EAB), chairing a diversity committee and establishing the annual UT Women Changing the World event. She advises engineering department chairs on issues related to recruiting and retaining women faculty and students, including the 35-in-5 Women in ME (later renamed Elevate ME) effort. Jerri has led efforts to establish the governance framework for the ME Academy for Distinguished Alumni. She presents at technical conferences and has published papers in technical journals. Jerri enjoys living in Austin, supporting local arts and live music, participating in public policy discussions, and traveling internationally.