



May 23, 2008

Alberta Professional Engineer Receives National Award

Edmonton – Alberta professional engineer Dr. Uttandaraman Sundararaj, was honoured last night by Engineers Canada for his dedication to teaching Canada's future engineers. Sundararaj received the prestigious national Engineering Medal of Distinction in Engineering Education for his exemplary contribution to teaching at the University of Alberta. Medal recipients display a passion for improving the methods of teaching. They exhibit leadership in outreach and continuing education as well as dedication to teaching engineering students.

Sundararaj was nominated for the Engineers Canada (formerly the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers) award by The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA). He received APEGGA's Summit Award® for Excellence in Education Award in 2007.

A graduate of the University of Alberta's engineering program, Sundararaj's career has come full circle. After obtaining a PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1994, he returned to the University of Alberta where he is now a professor in the department of chemical and materials engineering.

In 2002, he became associate chair, undergraduate chemical engineering, and developed the first departmental teaching workshop. He continues to guide former students on career planning, graduate studies and professional development. He frequently serves as a teaching mentor for new staff and also chairs the department's teaching initiatives committee which addresses changes to curriculum and teaching practices to ensure better engineers for industry, the profession and society.

Established in 1920, APEGGA is responsible for regulating the practices of engineering, geology and geophysics in the province of Alberta. The association's 52,000 members play a significant role in every segment of the economy and their technical and management expertise ensure Alberta remains at the forefront of technological innovation.

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Note: photo available.

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