



News Release

Leadership and Quality Assurance in Applied Science, Computing, Engineering, and Technology Education

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Diversity Award Renamed for Late Public Member Claire L. Felbinger

Baltimore, MD — The ABET Board of Directors has approved a motion to rename its President's Award for Diversity to honor of one of its late Public Members, **Dr. Claire L. Felbinger**. This motion was passed at the Board's fall meeting, held in Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday, November 1, 2008.

Dr. Claire Felbinger, a former Chair of the Master of Public Administration Program at American University, served as a Public Member of the ABET Board of Directors from 1998 to 2004. Public Members, now called Public Directors, are not affiliated with applied science, computing, engineering, or technology through either training or practice. They are voting members of the ABET Board and may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms.

During Felbinger's six years as a Public Member, she was very active in ABET activities, serving as a liaison to the Engineering Accreditation Commission, a member of the Finance Committee, a member of the ad hoc Strategic Planning and Succession Planning Committees, and Chair of the Public Member Committee. Felbinger was also ABET's representative on the National Academy of Engineering's Committee on Diversity.

The Public Member Committee, under Felbinger's leadership, was the first to bring ABET's diversity issue formally to the attention of the Board. The committee's work led to initiatives such as issuing a formal policy statement on diversity, collecting and publishing diversity statistics about the organization's volunteer pool, and creating an award for individuals, institutions, and organizations that achieve or facilitate diversity in the technological segments of our society, the ABET President's Award for Diversity.

The first President's Awards for Diversity were conferred in 2005, both as an extension of ABET's commitment to fostering diversity in the disciplines it accredits and as recognition of the outstanding efforts that some entities are making in this realm. In 2006, the ABET Board of Directors institutionalized the President's Award for Diversity so that it would be presented annually to recognize U.S.-based educational units, individuals, associations, and firms for extraordinary success in achieving diversity and inclusiveness or for facilitating diversity and inclusiveness in the technological segments of our society. Details about the award and a list of past recipients are available at <http://www.abet.org/diversity.shtml>.

Felbinger passed away suddenly in her home on May 28, 2008. The award that she helped to establish has been renamed the Claire L. Felbinger Award for Diversity in her memory.

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ABET, Inc., the recognized accreditor for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology, is a federation of 30 professional and technical societies representing these fields. Among the most respected accreditation organizations in the U.S., ABET has provided leadership and quality assurance in higher education for more than 75 years. ABET currently accredits some 2,800 programs at more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide. Over 1,500 dedicated volunteers participate annually in ABET activities. ABET also provides leadership internationally through workshops, consultancies, memoranda of understanding, and mutual recognition agreements, such as the Washington Accord. ABET is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.