



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

JOHN F. MCDONNELL



John F. McDonnell, a member of the Presidents' Circle since '04, made a very generous pledge of \$2 million to provide core support for NAE's *EngineerGirl* program and to pilot new activities that will expand the program's reach, mentoring efforts, and hands-on engagement. This recent pledge is just one element of his dedicated support of the NAE, its programming, and initiatives over the years.

With a successful 40-year career in the aeronautical industry, in both engineering and management positions, Mr. McDonnell has a deep understanding of the importance of engineering. He describes it as "a universal language with teamwork at its essence, so engineers are well positioned to thrive in a global setting where the ability to work together will be of increasing importance." And he recognizes that "my engineering background has benefited me beyond the field by

equipping me with the capacity to think critically and understand issues in many situations, which is central to fields like management and finance."

John also knows that a diverse engineering workforce that better represents the world's population is essential to the health, happiness, and safety of the individual and society. "Overall, women have been underrepresented in engineering. A better balance between men and women in the field will provide better, comprehensive solutions to global engineering challenges."

The *EngineerGirl* website, launched in 2001, is part of the NAE's commitment to both increase diversity in the engineering workforce and improve America's technological literacy. It is recognized as a primary mechanism for bringing national attention to the exciting opportunities in engineering for girls and women, and is the #1 site for online searches of "engineering and girls." John's generous support is being put to good use in a variety of ways, enabling the NAE to develop and pilot the *EngineerGirl* Ambassadors program; create, test, and implement a hands-on engineering design challenge; hire the necessary staff to direct these new projects; continue the popular annual essay contest; and update website content to ensure its ongoing relevance and appeal.

The new Ambassadors program, launched in February 2018, will both connect high school girls to engineering mentors and engage them in sharing their enthusiasm for engineering design with younger students. It will thus simultaneously deepen and capitalize on the growing interest of both age groups.

The private philanthropy of individuals like John F. McDonnell provides the essential financial support that many of the NAE's programs depend on to grow and advance engineering. We are profoundly grateful for John's support of the NAE and its *EngineerGirl* program.