



Sangtae Kim, PhD

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Leadership in an Academic Setting



For more than a century, graduates of Purdue's School of Chemical Engineering have forged on from their student experiences to leading and leadership roles in the chemical and allied industries – thereby making impactful contributions to the technological foundations of our society. This is the ultimate measure of the success of the School in achieving its core mission of education, research and service. Today, the School of Chemical Engineering at Purdue is in a favorable and yet challenging environment where major “macro” trends of state and university support are in excellent form compared to peer institutions. And thanks to decades of excellent stewardship, the School can count on loyal support from its many successful alumni. The challenge for the next Head of the School is to translate these resource-based competitive advantages to an enhancement of the reputation of the School, not only for higher rankings *per se*, but to open new doors to vistas that are attainable for highly regarded organizations.

Universities play a special and unique role in our society and this is manifest in the complexity of the challenge in leading a major unit (department) therein. In contrast to a business unit in the private sector, there is no single “bottom line” as the driving metric for the organization. Indeed an ecosystem that facilitates large scale collaborations to tackle the grand challenges of our times while simultaneously nurturing individual creativity and scholarship calls out for a leader who is comfortable with multiple “bottom lines” as a basis for meaningful engagement with the multiple stakeholders of the School of Chemical Engineering.

Sangtae Kim is Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University. His prior professional experiences include founding Executive Director, Morgridge Institute for Research; founding Division Director, NSF Division of Shared Cyberinfrastructure; and Vice President for R&D IT at bio/pharmaceutical companies Eli Lilly and Warner Lambert. His career started as a faculty member in chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he made pioneering discoveries in mathematical and computational microhydrodynamics and coauthored the 1991 book on this same topic. Dr. Kim is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the AIChE and AIMBE, a Trustee of the AIChE Foundation and served one term (2009-2012) as the IT expert on the Science Board of the Food and Drug Administration. His honors and awards include the 2013 Ho-Am Prize in Engineering, AIChE's George Lappin Award (2008) and Allan P. Colburn Award (1993), and the Award for Initiatives in Research from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (1992). Dr. Kim received concurrent BSc and MSc degrees (1979) from Caltech and his PhD (1983) from Princeton.

The School of
Chemical
Engineering
Head
Candidate
Seminar

Thursday,
April 21, 2016

9:30 AM

FRNY 3059
Conference
Room