



## Alicia Gardner

**BSChE 2001**

Senior Vice President of Commercial |  
Revolution Medicines

For her lifelong dedication to solving complex challenges in the biotech and pharmaceutical industry by delivering revolutionary patient treatments that enhance and extend lives.

Alicia Gardner credits her Purdue experiences in study abroad and the chemical engineering co-op program for affirming her choice of major and her career. The late Professor Robert Squires, who coordinated the co-op program for 30-plus years, as well as former chemical engineering head, Robert Greenkorn, influenced her greatly, as did the humble, but can-do attitude instilled by the Boilermaker spirit.

"So many exciting doors opened, thanks to Purdue," Gardner says.

A dedication to delivering new medicines to patients with serious and life-threatening diseases has been a driving force in Gardner's career trajectory. As senior vice president of commercial at Revolution Medicines, she leads a diverse team charged with bringing innovative targeted cancer therapies to market. She also serves on the company's cross-functional executive leadership team and contributes to its portfolio strategy to maximize patient and business impact.

Before joining RevMed, she was vice president at Genentech, a member of the Roche Group. During her tenure there, she held a variety of leadership positions working across the company's oncology, hematology and COVID franchises in the US, Switzerland and Canada. With more than 20 years of commercial experience across biotech and pharmaceutical companies, Gardner has contributed to the lifecycle management, strategy development, marketing and launch of several commercialized drug therapies.

"At Purdue, I learned the value of teamwork, how to embrace challenging problems and the importance of a well-balanced life," Gardner says. And her advice to today's undergraduates is simple — "Stay curious and don't be afraid to take risks."



## Ray Mentzer

MSChE 1976 | PhD 1980

Professor of Engineering Practice |  
Purdue University

For his lifelong commitment to sharing industry expertise in chemical process safety and promoting best practices.

It took one year for Ray Mentzer to build the experimental apparatus central to his PhD research at Purdue. It took him two more years to get it to work. Undiscouraged, Mentzer relied on the dedication and strong work ethic imbued in the ethos of Purdue engineers to steadfastly pursue a goal despite challenges and setbacks. Now, as a Professor of Engineering Practice at Purdue, Mentzer inspires his students to do the same.

Mentzer's journey back to campus came after a 28-year career with ExxonMobil where he held more than a dozen assignments with the multinational oil and gas corporation, including posts in Houston, New Orleans and London, and responsibilities across the globe. He retired in 2008 as ExxonMobil's Safety, Health, Environment and Security Manager, having managed a team of 150 who provided safety, environmental and security support for 16 international upstream projects, each costing more than \$1 billion. He then spent seven years lecturing on process safety at Texas A&M University, where he was also deeply engaged in the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, where he oversaw many graduate student research projects.

"Executive positions require good communication, persuasion and teamwork skills as well as reliance on others when delegating," Mentzer says. "Understanding the 80-20 rule is imperative."

He joined the Purdue faculty in 2016 where he teaches the required senior-level chemical process safety course to ~170 students. He is also the Executive Director of the Purdue Process Safety and Assurance Center, one of the few centers of expertise in the country dedicated to preparing students to prevent potential disasters and equipping them for success upon entering industry. The Center has over twenty industrial sponsors and typically conducts 25 research projects a year.