

TAB HALL OF HONOR RECIPIENT NOMINATION FORM



CANDIDATE NAME: DR. ROBERT HEBNER

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Bob Hebner is the Director of the Center for Electromechanics at the University of Texas at Austin. The Center teams with companies to get technology into the market. Current projects include improved hybrid vehicles, energy storage, Smart Grid, and microgrids. He worked at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), achieving the position of Acting Director. He also served in the Office of Management and Budget and at the Defense

Advanced Research Projects Agency. He collaborated with officials globally to develop measurement and standards systems to support trade. He has been active in international efforts to use technology development to stimulate economic growth. His current position involves transitioning new technology to existing or spin-out companies. He has had senior management experience with responsibility for hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars, but maintained a technical focus. He has a Ph.D. and coauthored more than one hundred technical papers and reports.

CITATION:

For developing processes to support Emerging Technologies and to incubate new Technical Communities within IEEE Technical Activities.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMPLISHMENT(S) RELATIVE TO THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT, OR ADVANCEMENT OF THE TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES OF THE IEEE:

The nominee has shown extraordinary dedication, leadership and organizational skills in service to the IEEE Technical Activities. He developed an improved process to bond together emerging and existing technical communities in TA. Serving as Chair of TAB Future Directions Committee, he restructured the committee, making it more effective in new community creation by matching the committee processes to the operational procedures of TA. He minimized the bureaucratic burden that technical communities face when trying to integrate into Technical Activities. Successful new technical communities such as Life Sciences, Smart Grid, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, to name a few, have been initiated, expanded or transitioned into the TA structure under his leadership. The nominee's initiatives have helped IEEE and TA venture into new, emerging technical fields that individual Societies and Councils would have difficulties to initiate.

The nominee has also introduced and championed a number of operational improvements and efficiencies in Technical Activities during his TAB Chair tenure in 2013. He initiated, in collaboration with MGA, a Hackathon trial program to bring more technology-based activities to Student Branches. As TAB VP, he launched a series of Researchers Workshops in the US, Asia and Europe to gauge and analyze trends of state-of-the-art research. Results of this effort have been publicized across IEEE (TAB, PSPB and the Panel of Editors) in the widely circulated 2014 report "Implications of the Changing Research Enterprise". He created a working group charged with identifying possible processes and procedures within the TA operating structure and making recommendations to introduce organizational efficiencies in the areas of reporting, duplication, and approval processes. During his VP TA tenure he also instituted a number of ad-hocs and working groups that have provided select Societies and Council with evaluation, feedback and advice towards becoming more fiscally sound and more efficient.

DATE(S) OF ACCOMPLISHMENT(S):

Dr. Hebner's activities and accomplishments relative to the creation, development and advancement of TAB cover uniformly the period 2006-2014, with the peak achievements spanning the years 2010-14. His elected and appointed TAB positions listed in the section: RELEVANT IEEE ACTIVITIES cover virtually all major TA and IEEE leadership roles that any individual could effectively assume.

RELEVANT IEEE ACTIVITIES:

In 2012-13 the nominee chaired an IEEE-level ad-hoc that modified and clarified IEEE policies on distribution and control of IEEE internal documents. The primary objective was to reduce the content of IEEE BoD meetings that had to be held in executive session and to adopt a coherent IEEE-wide confidentiality policy. This greatly improved the transparency of IEEE operations to TAB volunteers and volunteers of other OUs. Unfortunately, the Governance Committee hasn't released this new policy yet - but when they do it will be a big improvement.

Dr. Hebner's initial engagement in the TAB business has covered a number of years before 2006. Beginning in 2007, he has assumed key leadership positions within the TA and IEEE as listed below. In the opinion of the nominator, he has served in ALL these positions with remarkable dedication, skills and has demonstrated the best values and volunteer spirit that any volunteer can bring to TA and IEEE.

IEEE Board of Directors 2009, 2010, 2013
IEEE Board of Directors Parliamentarian 2014
IEEE Infrastructure Ad-hoc Chair 2014
IEEE Confidentiality Policies Ad-hoc Chair 2014
VP Technical Activities, TAB Chair 2013

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Technical Activities Board 2006-2007 (Society President), 2009-2010
(Division Director), 2012-2014 (TAB Chair)
IEEE Governance Committee 2010, 2011
TAB Future Directions Committee 2010 (Chair)
TAB Strategic Planning Committee 2007-2009, 2012-13 (Member), 2014
(Chair)
TAB Management Committee 2012, 2014 (Member), 2013 (Chair)