Nicholas J. Altiero Assumes Presidency of the American Society for Engineering Education

June 18, 2014

Nicholas Altiero becomes president of the American Society for Engineering Education at the society’s annual conference in Indianapolis on June 18. Altiero is Dean of the School of Science and Engineering at Tulane University, where he also serves as a professor of biomedical engineering and engineering physics.

“It is an honor to assume the presidency of ASEE, an organization that for 121 years has influenced the quality of engineering and engineering technology education in this country,” said Altiero. “I see this as a unique time to position ASEE for the future and look forward to working with the board of directors in completing a strategic plan for the organization within the next year.”

He follows Kenneth Galloway of Vanderbilt as president. The incoming president-elect is Joe Rencis, Dean of Engineering, Clay N. Hixson Chair for Engineering Leadership, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Tennessee Tech University. Altiero will serve one year as president and one year as immediate past president.

Altiero joined the faculty at Tulane University as Dean of the School of Engineering in 2000. In 2006, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Tulane University was restructured and Altiero was named the inaugural Dean of the School of Science and Engineering.

Dr. Altiero received a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1969 and a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering in 1970, a Master of Arts degree in mathematics in 1971 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in aerospace engineering in 1974 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Following postdoctoral appointments at the University of Michigan and at the Department of the Interior’s Twin Cities Research Center, he joined the faculty of the Materials Science and Mechanics department at Michigan State University in 1975. At Michigan State, he advanced through the faculty ranks to the rank of Professor in 1986 and, in 1990, he was named the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies of the College of Engineering, where he had administrative responsibility for the research, technology transfer, graduate studies and distance education operations of the college. In January 1998, he was named Chairman of the Department of Materials Science and Mechanics and he served in that position until June 2000.

Altiero has held visiting positions at the Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy, as a Fulbright Scholar, and at the Technical University of Aachen, Germany, as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow. He has published extensively in the areas of computational mechanics, fracture mechanics, geo-mechanics, and bio-
mechanics and has received external funding for research, teaching and other projects from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Economic Development Administration, Ameritech, Dynamics, General Electric Foundation, General Motors, the Industrial Technology Institute, and the Michigan Department of Commerce. He has taught a wide range of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels and, in 1991, received the State of Michigan Teaching Excellence Award.

Altiero is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), an ASEE fellow, and a member of the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society and Tau Beta Pi Honorary Engineering Society. He currently serves as President of the ASEE and as a member of the ASEE Board of Directors. He also serves on the Louisiana Innovation Council, the EPSCoR Committee of the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Nominating Committee for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities, the Executive Board of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), the Board of Trustees of the Advocates for Science and Math Education (Sci High), the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America (ASTRA), the Board of Directors of Building Louisiana Science and Technology (BLAST), the Board of Directors of the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair (GNOSEF), and as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Greater New Orleans Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative (Core Element). He previously has served as Chairman of the ASEE Engineering Deans' Council, Chairman of the ASEE Engineering Research Council, as Chairman of the Council of Deans Subcommittee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Aeronautics Research Advisory Committee, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Department of Energy's National Institute for Global Environmental Change, as a member of the ASME Task Force on Federal Engineering Research Funding, as a member of the Louisiana Governor’s Advisory Task Force on Funding and Efficiency of the Department of Environmental Quality, as a member of the Louisiana Governor’s Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) and as a member of the Board of Directors of Wink Companies, LLC.

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