



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Michael W. Laphen '72

To Michael W. Laphen for his illustrious career in worldwide information technology services and his support of students and programs in Penn State's College of Information Sciences and Technology.

Michael Laphen's undergraduate education at Penn State gave him more than an academic foundation in accounting and business. He credits the University for instilling in him a quiet confidence and an ethical belief that his actions should speak for themselves.

"Penn State was always a straight-up school," he said. "It was a good guiding light as to how to behave and to carry yourself in business in general."

Laphen said he relied on those ethical beliefs throughout his 35-year career with CSC, a Falls Church, Va.-based, Fortune 200 provider of consulting, systems integration, and information technology services around the world. He joined the \$250 million Computer Sciences Corporation in 1977, just five years after receiving his bachelor's degree in accounting. During more than three decades at CSC, Laphen transitioned from the financial side of the

business to the operational side and held senior positions in technical, financial, and general management areas in diverse markets spanning the commercial, public sector, and international arenas. In 2007, he was appointed chief executive officer and president and then elected board chair.

He retired in 2012 as head of a \$17 billion enterprise with more than 93,000 employees and a corporate project list ranging from creating a new Federal Aviation Administration air traffic control system to upgrading the American Red Cross IT infrastructure after Hurricane Katrina to supporting the U.S. space shuttle program.

In 2011, *Corporate Responsibility* magazine named CSC number two on its list of Best Corporate Citizens in Business Services, while *Fortune* ranked the company number four among the World's Most Admired Companies in Information Technology.

Also in 2011, Laphen received a Dwight D. and Mamie Eisenhower Distinguished Citizen Award from the Army Distaff Foundation for service to the military and military families. CSC's Military Programs Team assists job applicants affiliated with

the military, and the company has been named a Top Veteran Friendly Employer by *GIJobs* magazine.

Laphen served on the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee, a group of 30 chief executive officers of major telecommunications, network service, information technology, finance, and aerospace companies that make recommendations to the U.S. president about national communications security. He is a member of the Information Technology Association of America, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, National Defense Industrial Association, and Business Roundtable for chief executive officers.

Having grown up in the small town of Feasterville in Bucks County, Pa., Laphen enrolled at Penn State as an engineering student and a year later switched his major to accounting. He also took a break from his studies to attend U.S. Air Force basic training. Then, he served six years in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Reserves as he finished college and began his career working for the Department of Defense. He completed his master's degree in business administration at the Wharton

School of the University of Pennsylvania after beginning work with CSC.

In 2010, Laphen received the Penn State Alumni Fellow Award. He serves on the College of Information Sciences and Technology's Advisory Board and on its *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students* committee. He and his wife, Rosemary '72, whom he met in accounting class at Penn State, have endowed two trustee scholarships in the college, with an emphasis on students who are the first in their families to go to college. "We were both first-generation students," Laphen said. "We needed some help to get through college, and we wanted to give back."

The Laphens are life members of the Penn State Alumni Association. They live in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. and Great Falls, Va., and have two children, Kelly and Conor. Conor and his wife, Katie, have one son, Colin.