CIE/USA – DFW Celebrates 25 Years of Excellence

The Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA (CIE/USA-DFW) held its 2014 annual convention at the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel in Richardson, Texas, on August 16th, 2014. This event marks the 25th anniversary of the CIE/USA-DFW since its inception in 1989.

This year’s activity-packed convention included tours of Oncor, the Texas Instruments Kilby Lab, and the AT&T Foundry on August 15th; International Technology Symposium and evening banquet on August 16th; and Round Table discussion and networking, as well as the Energy Executive Forum on August 17th.

The symposium keynote speakers included David H. Lu, vice president of AT&T; Dr. Ming-Whei Feng, director general of Institute for Information Industry in Taiwan; and Jen-Ming Hsu, general manager of Taiwan Power Company.

More than 400 attendees attended the evening banquet. Richardson Mayor Laura Maczka, Texas State Representative Angie Button, and Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Tennell Atkins were among the elected officials present.

Dr. Chinpei Tang, president of CIE/USA-DFW, and Simon Chang, convention chair, thanked the tireless volunteers and generous supporters for making this event a success.

Bob Shapard, chairman and CEO of Oncor, was the keynote speaker at the banquet. Oncor is a regulated electric transmission and distribution service provider that serves 10 million customers across Texas. He talked about the future trend of electricity and noted, “While the consumers are getting more demanding, we will react in real time and we are ready to meet these challenges.”

As the chairman of Dallas Heart Walk, the American Heart Association’s annual fundraising event, he reminded us, “If we can stop smoking, walk 30 minutes a day, and cut back on fast food, we can cut 50% of health care costs overnight. When we pay attention to fitness, we will improve performance in schools and on the job.”

I had the privilege of interviewing Chairman Bob Shapard. I asked him, “As the leader of a large corporation, what are the qualities you look for in an employee?” He replied, “We are looking for people with the right attitude. First, I value people who take pride in their jobs and want to do their best work. They want to make a difference. Secondly, I like people who are flexible and willing to try new things. My philosophy is that there are two ways to approach work. One is compliance: the employee does what is asked and gets paid. Nothing more. One is commitment: if leaders can inspire commitment, the employee would want to do more and to do better. Then the sky is the limit for the performance of the employee.”

CIE/USA-DFW not only promotes awareness and advancement of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), but also offers programs like MathComp/MathFun, Youth English Speech Contest, Leadership Assessment and Mentoring Program (LAMP), and many others to the community.

This year, eighteen outstanding high school students received the Young Achiever Award. These young people are a perfect example of our next generation of successful Asian Americans. We applaud the winners that inspire us all.

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