



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

SEMINAR
COMPUTER SCIENCE - IT - MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING - MSCS
March 12, 2019, 6:00-7:00 pm
Sierra Hall 1422

Speaker: Robert Westberg, Jr. P.E.

Title: Technical Leadership

Abstract: Many future engineers and scientists also have great potential to become leaders of technical pursuits and beyond. Becoming a good leader, like becoming an engineer or scientist, requires mastery of specialized knowledge, skills and techniques. Fortunately, many technical skills acquired on the path to an engineering or science career can be translated into leadership roles, and more can be acquired. Students in technical disciplines should consider their interest in future leadership roles early in their careers. They would benefit from the study of leadership techniques and the practice of associated skills so that, when the opportunity arises, they are prepared to lead, just as they are prepared to perform their technical roles.

Equally importantly, future leaders should consider why they want to lead, what kind of leadership style they want to adopt, and perhaps more importantly, what they want to accomplish as a leader. In this seminar, we will explore the potential for technical experts to also become expert leaders, and how to prepare for such a roll. We will explore motivating factors in becoming a leader, and how character is a critical part of the success of leaders. We will also examine the kind of goals worthy of a leader's attention.

Bio of the speaker: Captain Westberg completed a career as a Naval Officer, serving on surface ships and then in the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, where he held leadership positions in engineering, construction and operations of major installations. He qualified as a diving officer and spent several tours in ocean engineering and underwater construction. Later assignments included head of facilities for a nuclear shipyard, Vice Commander for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command for the western states, Commanding Officer of the Navy's world-wide specialized facilities engineering service center, and Chief Staff Officer for Naval Base Ventura County.

In the private sector, he led Amgen's facilities and engineering function, first at Thousand Oaks, and later world-wide, with responsibility for supporting all research, manufacturing and office infrastructure. He developed and led Amgen's Engineering Technical Authority, overseeing discipline engineering. He was also responsible for Amgen's energy program, and in 2014, the Association of Energy Engineers recognized Amgen with its Corporate Energy Management Award.

Captain Westberg earned a bachelor's degree in ocean engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was awarded the class of 1929 prize as the top student with that major. He completed a Master of Engineering degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and the Executive Program at the University of Michigan's business school. He served as chair of the Ventura County post of the Society of American Military Engineers, and on the board of the Ventura County Economic Development Association. He is a founding member and past chair of the advisory council for the Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics at CSU Channel Islands.

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