



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Keys A. Curry, Jr., P.E.
Charter Member

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1958

Chairman, President and CEO
Curgil Oil and Gas, Inc. Houston, Texas

Keys Curry has a long, successful history of combining his engineering background with skillful entrepreneurship. Since graduating from UT, he has started or been a principal in four companies, two of which were taken public with very successful initial public offerings. He achieved licensure as a Texas professional engineer and a Texas real estate broker, acquired an M.B.A., and ran enterprises in computer software, mineral acquisition, and power generation engineering.

Keys began his career at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, where he held the position of sales engineer for seven years. In 1967, he received his M.B.A. from the University of Houston, and the following year launched Land Value Dynamics, Inc, a computer software firm, where he held the posts of founder, president, and member of the board of directors. Two years later, he became founder, vice president, and executive committee member of Steve T. Cochran and Associates, Inc. His next venture was as founder, president, and member of the board of directors of Texas Resource Development Corporation, a mineral acquisitions firm. From 1978-87, he held various executive positions with Power Systems Engineering, Inc. that launched a successful initial public offering in 1986 as PSE Inc. (AMEX), rising to become president and chief operating officer from 1987-89. Between 1989 and 1997, he served as executive vice president and chief operating officer, and subsequently as

president and chief operating officer of Destec Energy, Inc., an independent power firm specializing in combined cycle electric power generation and coal gasification and clean gas technology. He was a member of the National Petroleum Council from 1987-97.

His dedication to the Cockrell School of Engineering is reflected in a wide range of College-related and University-wide leadership roles. Keys was a member of the UT Chancellor's Council, Littlefield Society, and is a two-time past chair of the Engineering Foundation Advisory Council and a Friend of Alec. In 1989, he and his wife established the Keys and Joan Curry/Cullen Trust Chair in Engineering, and later established the Keys A. and Joan F. Curry Endowed Excellence Fund in Engineering, as well as two significant endowments in the Plan II Honors Program: The Joan F. and John F. Curry Endowed Presidential Scholarships.

Keys has been an active member as well as an officer in a number of Houston civic and social organizations, such as the Kiwanis Club, the Kiwanis Foundation, the March of Dimes, and the Blue Bird Circle. The Curry Atrium, the welcoming point of the Taylor T-Room in the Engineering Teaching Center, is named in honor of Joan and Keys Curry, long-time friends, trusted advisors, and extraordinary donors to the Department of Mechanical Engineering.