



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## **Michael H. McGarry**

*Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2016*

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1980

*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*  
PPG Industries, Inc.

Michael H. McGarry is chairman and chief executive officer of PPG, the world's leading paint and coatings company. Having worked for PPG for more than three decades, McGarry helped transform the company from a glass, chemicals and coatings company into a highly focused coatings enterprise. Under his leadership PPG has grown revenues to more than \$15 billion with operations in more than 70 countries and sales in more than 140 countries around the world.

McGarry joined PPG in 1981 as a mechanical engineer at the company's Lake Charles, Louisiana, chemicals complex. He then progressed through management assignments such as sales in the southeast United States and market development manager in Pittsburgh before relocating to Bangkok in 1989 to start up and operate a new chemical joint venture in Thailand. McGarry returned to the U.S. to assume leadership of a new synthetic paper business before transitioning into PPG's commodity chemical business as a product manager.

In 2000, McGarry became general manager, fine chemicals, and was subsequently named vice president, chlor-alkali and derivatives. He relocated to PPG's European headquarters in Rolle, Switzerland, as vice president, coatings, Europe, and managing director, PPG Europe, in 2006. During his tenure in Europe, he led the acquisition of SigmaKalon, the largest privately owned paint company in Europe for \$3.1 billion. This was the start of the transition of PPG from a conglomerate to a pure coatings and paint company.

Upon his return to the U.S., McGarry became senior vice president, commodity chemicals, and then was

elected executive vice president in 2012. The following year, another key step in the transformation took place as he led the separation of the commodity chemical business from PPG. Two more milestones took place in 2014 with the acquisition of the Glidden business and the purchase of Comex, the largest Mexican paint company.

McGarry was named the chief operating officer in August 2014 and president in March 2015. He joined the company's board of directors in July 2015 (NYSE: PPG) and transitioned to the role of CEO in September 2015. He began his role as chairman of the board in September 2016. The final pieces of the transformation of the company were the sales of the glass and fiberglass businesses in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

McGarry is a former member on the board of Axiall Corporation (NYSE: AXLL), Pittsburgh Glass Works LLC, the American Chemistry Council and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. He is a current member of the American Coatings Association, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and the Allegheny Conference for Community Development.

A native of New Orleans, McGarry graduated with his BS in mechanical engineering from UT Austin in 1980 and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. McGarry was recognized in 2016 as a Cockrell School of Engineering Distinguished Engineering Graduate (DEG). His wife, Wanda, is also a UT graduate with a BS degree in Chemistry.