



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## **Susan L. Allen**

*Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2007*

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1985

*Worldwide Procurement Director (Retired)*  
Dell Inc.

Susan “Susie” Allen followed in her father’s footsteps in earning a Mechanical Engineering degree. His influence and support, plus her love of math and science, were critical to her choice to pursue a career in engineering.

Susie’s early career began in the emerging Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) industry. During her time at XeTel, an Austin-based manufacturer of printed circuit board assemblies, Susie held sales roles and leveraged her engineering background to influence customers’ purchasing decisions. Given XeTel’s small size, Susie gained exposure to all aspects of the product supply chain, from quoting and material sourcing to manufacturing, product testing, shipping and logistics.

In 1996, Susie was recruited to join Celestica, a new EMS company spun off of IBM Toronto’s manufacturing operations. As Celestica’s first employee in Texas, Susie focused on growing business in the southern United States. As Celestica expanded by acquiring international manufacturing facilities, Susie took on an additional role to educate colleagues at these facilities on how to successfully engage with new EMS customers. Susie was instrumental in growing Celestica’s global business with Dell and was promoted to Global Account Vice President; she and her team worked with Celestica factories around the globe to manufacture Dell’s products.

To broaden her experience beyond the EMS industry, Susie decided to pursue other high tech engineering

roles and joined Dell in 2004 as the leader of the Packaging Engineering team. During her time at Dell, Susie was involved in multiple facets of the business; she led teams in New Product Operations, Enterprise Supply Chain, Desktop Supply Chain, Procurement Program Management Office, Supplier Relationship Management, and Supply Chain Social and Environmental Responsibility.

Through her roles at both Celestica and Dell, Susie was fortunate to travel extensively throughout Asia, Europe and the Americas. This gave her an in-depth understanding of other cultures and the ability to form long-lasting business relationships throughout the world. Susie’s focus on these relationships led to her biggest career accomplishment of helping others grow and achieve their professional goals.

Since retiring from Dell in 2013, Susie serves as a consultant focused on supply chain management, customer relationships and corporate social responsibility. She enjoys spending time with her family and serving her community, especially in areas that allow her to work with high school and college students.

Susie and her husband, Dan, who were married in 1985, are avid Longhorn sports fans and support UT as President’s Associates endowment level members. They enjoy spending time and traveling with their sons, Blake and Brett, as well as attending their sons’ sporting events.