

LaRoux K. Gillespie

LaRoux K. Gillespie is a leader.

For over 50 years LaRoux has balanced education, work, family life, writing, and leadership of professional groups. Whether it was leadership framing the needs of balanced manufacturing production and research needs for 240 manufacturing research/process characterization efforts on precision parts, guiding an organizational staff of 200, or working in or leading one of 82 different professional assignments he is a leader.

LaRoux has served all the international officer positions of SME, including as President in 2012. He was Chairman of the Board of Advisors for the Machining Technology Association of SME. He began his 54 year SME career as a student member in 1962 at Kansas University. He has held more than 20 different officer and committee positions in his chapters, including chairing Student Chapter #3, Kansas City Chapter 57 and organizing Robotics International Chapter F162. He has held several terms on the SME Board of Directors. An SME Fellow, Gillespie has served on numerous SME committees over the years, including honor awards, certification, ad hoc lifelong learning, education, a group looking at emerging technologies, and advanced technologies publications. He chaired the former SME Machining Technology Association of SME (MTA/SME), the Profile 21 study, the Role of SME in Higher Education Task Force and has led numerous SME technical conferences. He also chaired the SME Education Foundation Student Guidance Operating Committee from 1979-88. He has degrees in both manufacturing engineering and mechanical engineering.

LaRoux is a member of the University of Kansas' Mechanical Engineering Department's Advisory Committee, and was Chairman of Pittsburg State University's Manufacturing Technology Advisory Committee and a member of Central Missouri State University's Center for Technology Advisory Board. He was an editorial advisor for *Production* magazine's *Manufacturing Planbook*. He has been an active participant in ECPD (now ABET), led a local technical manpower planning study, local engineering guidance council efforts, and has been a member of NSPE, KES, MSPE, the Institution of Production Engineers (England) (and its successors IEE and IET) and is a 54 year member of ASME.

LaRoux has served as chairman of several local, national, and international conferences on deburring, has been a frequent speaker on burrs, young engineers, motivation, and the future of manufacturing engineering. He helped organize and chaired the World-Wide Burr Technology Committee, an

international team devoted to burr technology improvements in the edge finishing industry. He is a world leader in metal finishing.

Much of his early SME work was directed to members of the student chapters for which he holds a special fondness.

SME provided the early means to develop his leadership skills and it provided many varied opportunities to expand abilities and demonstrate leadership. As seen above, he took full advantage of those no cost opportunities to lead. Not every volunteer role benefits an individual's job, but it did benefit LaRoux' speaking, writing, publishing and research skills while providing a much richer background in current technology and developing friendships with world leaders he could call for help.

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