COLLOQUIUM HONOREE

Robert W. Fletcher, PhD
Professor of Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering

Robert Fletcher joined Lawrence Technological University in 2003. His research and teaching efforts focus on renewable energy and thermal fluids. Robert's research with his students explores how renewable energy systems fundamentally function, recognizes where they are best applied, and understands their limitations. His interests are primarily in wind, solar, hydrogen power sources, and in battery storage technologies.

Robert developed the Alternative Energy program within the College of Engineering and established the Alternative Energy Lab, housed in the Engineering Building, which serves as a research lab, a student project lab, and an academic instructional lab. The program was supported by a grant from NextEnergy. Robert's work has also received major funding grants from DTE Energy, the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), General Dynamics Land Systems, and other corporate sponsors for specific energy-related projects.

Prior to coming to the academic environment at LTU Robert worked in industry for several years in manufacturing, quality systems, research and development, and project management for company leaders such as Dow Chemical, C.R. Bard, and Siemens. He has directed research projects in both the U.S. and Italy and worked with NASA to develop self-sustained power systems for deep-space probes on long-distance missions traveling to the outer planets and Pluto of our solar system.

Robert received his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington, and earned two master's degrees, one in Manufacturing Systems from Lawrence Technological University, and the second in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan. He earned his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) while working full time at Advanced Modular Power Systems. In 2008 he received the Mary E. and Richard E. Marburger Excellence in Achievement Award as Faculty Member of the Year.