



SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS

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SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS PRESENTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO
NANCE K. DICCIANI

Nance K. Dicciani is this year's recipient of the SWE Achievement Award, the Society's highest honor. She was cited for outstanding research management leading to the creation of important new industrial products.

The Achievement Award has been given annually since 1952 to a woman engineer of outstanding achievement in her field. Nominations, not restricted to SWE members, are solicited from industry, government, and education. Dr. Dicciani will receive her award at the Society of Women Engineers Achievement Award Banquet to be held Saturday, June 27, 1987, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, during the SWE National Convention.

Dr. Dicciani, a 1969 graduate of Villanova University with a BS in Chemical Engineering, received an MS from the University of Virginia in 1970. In 1974, after four years of industrial experience, including two years as Superintendent of Reservoirs for the City of Philadelphia's Water Department, she returned to academia and completed a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania in 1977. Dr. Dicciani received an MBA in Business Management from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 1986.

She joined Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. in 1977 as a Process Engineer in the Industrial Chemicals Division. She shortly moved to the Industrial Chemicals Research and Development Department as a Senior Research Engineer and in 1978 she became a Research Section Manager. In 1980 she joined the Corporate Science Center as Section Manager of catalytic process technology. In 1981 she was appointed as Director of Research for the Process Systems Group and in 1984 as Director of Research and Development. In 1986, she was appointed General Manager of the Gardner Cryogenics Department, a stand-alone manufacturer of specialized superinsulated cryogenic containers. She has responsibility for the overall management of the business on a worldwide basis including design and industrial engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and selling of Gardner's products. Her recent focus has been

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on developing new products and markets, particularly in liquid helium and hydrogen transportation and storage equipment.

Early in her career at Air Products, Dr. Dicciani conducted experimental and theoretical research in support of commercial chemical manufacturing processes. In one of her first technology management positions, Dr. Dicciani led a group that discovered, through fundamental exploratory research, a radically new catalyst for the manufacture of diazobicyclooctane, the world's most widely used polyurethane catalyst. Under her project management, a procedure for scale-up and manufacture of the catalyst was developed and successfully commercialized in well under one year - a remarkably short time from concept to commercial use.

She later influenced and directed the development of a wide range of technologies including a new catalyst for production of benzene from coke oven by-products; Air Products' first non-cryogenic process for the separation of air into nitrogen and oxygen; a new process for the recovery and purification of landfill gas; and the "COPE" process for debottlenecking Claus sulfur recovery plants.

Dr. Dicciani, author of numerous presentations, papers, and patents, received the Professional Achievement Award from Villanova University in 1986, and is listed in Women of Influence in the Lehigh Valley. She is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and a Senior Member of the Society of Women Engineers where she has served on the National Board of Advisors. She has been an advisor to the Air Products' Engineering Explorer Post and a member of the Lehigh Valley University-High School Committee. She is currently on the Advisory Board of the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Virginia and the Women's Health Center of Allentown, PA. She is also a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and holds a water plant operator's certification.

SWE is a non-profit educational service organization of graduate engineers and men and women with equivalent engineering experience. SWE has an international membership of over 14,000 women and men. SWE Sections are located in 63 areas of the United States and Puerto Rico; SWE Student Sections are chartered at more than 230 colleges, universities, and engineering institutes throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

SWE Corporate Membership is available to organizations which employ engineers and are interested in supporting the goals of the Society.

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NANCE K. DICCIANI

**BUSINESS UNIT DIRECTOR
PETROLEUM CHEMICALS
ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY**

As Business Unit Director of the Petroleum Chemicals Division of Rohm and Haas, Nance K. Dicciani is responsible for all aspects of the worldwide operation of this business, including sales, marketing, manufacturing and research and development.

Prior to joining Rohm and Haas in 1991, Nance enjoyed a very successful 14-year career at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.. Dicciani joined Air Products in 1977 as a Process Engineer in the Industrial Chemicals Division. She later moved to the Industrial Chemicals Research and Development Department as a Senior Research Engineer and in 1978 she became a Research Section manager. In 1980 she joined the Corporate Science Center as Section Manager of Catalysis Process Technology. In 1981 she was appointed Director of Research for the company's Process Systems Group and in 1984 became Director of Research and Development for that group. In 1986 Dicciani was appointed General Manager of Gardner Cryogenics, a stand-alone manufacturer of specialty cryogenic containers for use worldwide. In 1988, she assumed the position of Director, Commercial Development and Technology in the Specialty Chemicals Division. She was appointed General Manager of Business Development and Technology for Air Products' Chemicals Group in 1990, and was responsible for both external acquisition and internal development of new businesses and products.

Dicciani was born in 1947. She received a BS degree in chemical engineering from Villanova University in 1969 and an MS degree in chemical engineering from the University of Virginia in 1970. In 1974, after four years of industrial experience, including three years as Superintendent of Reservoirs for the City of Philadelphia, she returned to the University of Pennsylvania and completed her PhD in chemical engineering in 1977. Dicciani received an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1986.

Dicciani is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and a senior member of the Society of Women Engineers where she has served on the National Board of Advisors. She has been an advisor to Air Products' Engineering Explorer Post and a member of the Lehigh Valley University High School Committee. She is currently on the Advisory Boards of the chemical engineering departments at the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania, the Women's Health Centers of Allentown and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and the Wharton Executive MBA Program. She has also been active in Special Olympics in the Lehigh Valley. Dicciani is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania and holds a water plant operator's certification.

Dicciani received Villanova University's Professional Achievement Award in 1986 and was the Society of Women Engineers' Achievement Award recipient in 1987.