

2009 Vanguard Award

On April 28, the Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF) was joined by members of the chemical industry and educational community in honoring Arthur McFerrin, Jr., President of KMCO Group of Houston, Texas, as the winner of the CEF Vanguard Award. The award and ceremony acknowledge the outstanding efforts of individuals whose leadership, commitment, and outreach initiatives have helped advance the Foundation's mission of fostering a greater understanding of the science of chemistry, the benefits of chemicals, and the importance of chemical safety awareness.

CEF awarded McFerrin for his long-time involvement in the promotion of the science of chemistry in various educational settings across the state of Texas. He has also been instrumental in promoting chemistry education through his contributions to the Chemical Engineering Department that bears his name at his alma mater, Texas A&M University.



In 2008, McFerrin's company KMCO, LP of Crosby, Texas, received the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates' (SOCMA) Educational Outreach Award. This award, created through a partnership between CEF and SOCMA, honors companies that work to enhance science education through outreach activities within their community. Under McFerrin's guidance, KMCO's educational outreach activities include company employees serving on the Educational Committee for the local Chamber of Commerce, company sponsorship of a local college day and luncheon for new educators, and company involvement in the Texas Scholars Program and the Special Olympics.



"Mr. McFerrin's dedication to the chemical industry and excellence in science education exemplifies what this award is all about," said CEF Executive Director John Rice. "He has willingly made himself personally accountable for the image and relationship of the chemical industry and the community."

The event, held at Hotel Palomar in Arlington, VA, featured guest speaker Dr. Steve Robinson, Special Advisor to the Secretary of Education. Robinson spoke to the importance of science education and the Department of Education's efforts to enhance math and science education in the United States.

For more information, please visit the [Vanguard Award](#) page of the CEF Web site or contact the CEF staff. CEF will begin accepting nominations for the 2010 Vanguard Award in the fall of 2009.

(See page 2 for a brief biography on Arthur McFerrin Jr.)

2009 Vanguard Award Winner – Arthur (Artie) McFerrin Jr.



Arthur (Artie) McFerrin, Jr. is President of KMCO, L.P., a family-owned and operated chemical manufacturing company headquartered in Crosby, TX. McFerrin received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering from Texas A&M University. He began his career with Shell Chemical, and in 1975, he founded KMCO, L.P. He now owns production facilities in Port Arthur (KMTEX) and terminal/packaging facilities across the Houston area (South Coast Terminals).

As a graduate of Texas A&M, he has been a proud supporter of the university for many years. His passion for improving chemical engineering education and research has led to his endowment of the university's Becky Gates Children's Center, the Marilyn Kent Byrne Student Success Center in the College of Education and Human Development, as well as the Byrne Chair, also in the College of Education. In 2001, he and his son Jeff, a 1992 graduate of Texas A&M, established the McFerrin Professorship in Chemical Engineering to support the teaching, research, and professional activities of an outstanding faculty member.

Additionally, McFerrin has served on the President's Corps of Cadets Board of Visitors, the 12th Man Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Texas A&M Research Foundation.

