

George Hazelrigg

George Hazelrigg enjoyed designing and building things when he was young. So he decided to go to college to study engineering. He obtained a BS in mechanical engineering from Newark College of Engineering (now New Jersey Institute of Technology) and went to work for Curtiss-Wright. There, he found that his education had utterly destroyed his abilities to do engineering design. So he felt it necessary to get a master's degree. He completed an MS in mechanical engineering, also from NCE, but still hadn't regained his design abilities. While getting his MS, however, he did some teaching and liked it. So he figured that, if he couldn't do design, the next best thing would be to teach it. Five years later, he had obtained MA, MSE, and PhD degrees in aerospace engineering from Princeton University. Now, in addition to not knowing how to do design, he couldn't teach it either.

For the next 25 years, he roamed industry and academe in an attempt to understand the theory of engineering design, including time spent at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, General Dynamics, Princeton University and a consulting firm of which he was a co-founder. He also spent a year in Korea helping to found the Systems Engineering Department of Ajou University.

He joined the National Science Foundation in 1982 and, in 1996, became program director for the Engineering Design program where, for eight years, he provided support to others in the field. In January, 1996, he did a stint as Station Science Leader (Emperor) of the U.S. South Pole station. Since 2004, he has been Program Director for the Manufacturing and Construction Machines and Equipment program and, since the formation of the CMMI Division, he has been Deputy Division Director. He has overseen the review of more than 5,000 proposals, sat in on about 250 proposal review panels, and given numerous lectures on proposal writing. For relaxation, he spends his weekends soaring over the Shenandoah Valley, and he is a certified flight instructor in gliders (CFI-G) with over 1,400 total flying hours.