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"The global chemical engineering working for a better future world"

Rakesh Agrawal is the Winthrop E. Stone Distinguished Professor in the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University. Before joining Purdue in 2004, Agrawal had a fruitful and productive carrier at Air Products and Chemicals rising to its highest technical position of Air Products Fellow. He received a B. Tech. from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, an M.Ch.E. from the University of Delaware and an Sc.D. in chemical engineering from MIT.

His research includes novel processes for the fabrication of low-cost thin-film solar cells, energy systems analysis, shale gas processing, biomass to liquid fuel conversion, synthesis of efficient multicomponent separation processes using distillation, membranes and adsorption, and basic and applied research in gas separations and liquefaction. Agrawal has published 254 technical papers and has given over 270 invited lectures. He holds 131 U.S. and more than 500 foreign patents. These patents are used in over one hundred chemical plants with total capital expenditure in multibillion dollars. He has served on technology and engineering advisory boards of a number of companies.

Agrawal has received dozens of awards and honors, including Purdue's Philip C. Wankat Graduate Teaching Award, Shreve Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching, and the Morrill Award for excellence in research, teaching and service. From the AIChE he has received Gerhold award in separations, the Institute Award for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology, the Chemical Engineering Practice Award, Fuels and Petrochemicals Division Award, Alpha Chi Sigma Award for Chemical Engineering Research and the Founders Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Chemical Engineering. He received Award in Separations Science and Technology from the ACS. He delivered Institute Lecture at the 2005 AIChE meeting and Peter V. Danckwerts Lecture at the 10th World Congress of Chemical Engineering.

He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the US National Academy of Inventors and a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. Agrawal received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Obama in 2011.