



## **Thomas A. Manz**

**Inducted May 27, 2018**

<b>Paulding High School</b>		<b>1990</b>
<b>The University of Toledo</b>	<b>B.S.</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>Purdue University</b>	<b>M.S.</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Purdue University</b>	<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>2009</b>

Tom Manz graduated from Paulding High School in 1990. During High School, he participated in and won awards in the Chemistry Olympiad, math contests, and some other science-related contests.

After high school, he studied at the University of Toledo and graduated with a bachelor of science in chemical engineering in 1994. He attended graduate school at Purdue University and graduated with a master of science in chemical engineering in 1998 and a doctor of philosophy in 2009. His Ph.D. dissertation was on the computational modeling of olefin polymerization by zirconium and hafnium organo-metallic catalysts. His master's thesis was supervised by Professor Nick Delgass. His Ph.D. dissertation was supervised by Professors Jim Caruthers and Kendall Thomson.

From 2008 to 2012, he was a research scientist (post-doc) at the Georgia Institute of Technology where he studied computational chemistry in the research group of Professor David Sholl in the school of chemical and biomolecular engineering. From 2013, Professor Sholl is now the chair of that department.

Since 2012, he is working as an assistant professor in chemical engineering at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. He currently teaches classes and supervises an active research group in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at NMSU. His research group develops and applies computational chemistry methods to study materials. In 2016, he received a five-year career award grant from the National Science Foundation to fund his research program. To date, his research group has graduated two Ph.D. students and two master's students. He is the author or co-author of a couple dozen peer-reviewed journal articles.

He is the son of Ben and Carolyn Manz of Paulding. His parents taught him a strong work ethic, to treat others fairly, and to always search for truth.

Tom's parents, middle and high school teachers, and college professors had a large influence on his education and career. His middle and high school teachers did an excellent job of teaching fundamentals while also providing a nurturing environment to stimulate a curious mind. At Paulding High School, he received a tremendous education in science and math that had a profound influence on his later career. He thanks all of his teachers. He especially acknowledges Dwight Kurtzman who taught him chemistry and physics, is both a friend and mentor, and with whom he spent a couple summers painting houses.