

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Tau Beta Pi Announces Dr. Robert L. Ward, P.E., as 2011 National Outstanding Advisor**

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 18th National Outstanding Advisor in its program to recognize engineering faculty who make important contributions to students and collegiate chapters. While the primary goal of Tau Beta Pi is to recognize students of superior scholarship and exemplary character and to honor eminent practicing engineers, the Association also lauds excellence in engineering education and in the ethical practice of engineering.

**Dr. Robert L. Ward, P.E.**, *Ohio Iota '88*, professor of civil engineering at Ohio Northern University, and Chief Advisor to the Ohio Iota Chapter, is the *2011 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor*. He will be honored on October 29, 2011, at the 106th annual Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Ward. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to Ohio Northern University college of engineering's discretionary fund.

Dr. Ward was cited in his nomination for striving to enhance the Association each year, encouraging every member to participate in events, and offering opportunities to build character through volunteer support of the community and school.

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Dr. Ward has been Chief Advisor to Ohio Iota since 1996. He spent eight years in the work force as O'Fallon, MO, city engineer, a project engineer with Eastman Kodak, and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He joined Ohio Northern (ONU) as an assistant professor in 1989, after teaching experience at St. Louis Community College, Kansas State University, the University of Arkansas, and New Mexico State. He previously gained his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Missouri and his doctorate from the University of Arkansas.

*Ohio Iota* is one of the Association's smallest chapters (with approximately 25 eligible students each year), and Dr. Ward is pivotal in providing the necessary continuity from year to year. The chapter is one of TBPI's star performers, initiating 100 percent of eligible candidates. Under his direction, *Ohio Iota* won the Outstanding Chapter Award in 2002-03 and received honorable mentions in 2004-05 and 2009-10. It was the most decorated chapter at the 2010 Quasquicentennial Convention, winning five awards. It has had an unbroken streak of 15 Secretary's Commendations and has received the Chapter Project Award every year since its creation, using the money to fund an annual outstanding sophomore award.

Dr. Ward is a strong supporter of TBPI national programs, including Engineering Futures and Greater Interest in Government. He encourages students to apply for scholarships and fellowships. In the past ten years, ONU students have received six fellowships and seven scholarships, an outstanding achievement for any chapter. Dr. Ward consistently attends the annual Convention, serving as an excellent resource for new advisors, and recently joined the Advisor Recruitment and Development Committee.

He specializes in water resources, engaging students in projects like performing studies of increased storm water runoff from campus buildings and parking lots. Dr. Ward is committed to his college's outreach activities, teaching civil engineering concepts to middle and high-school students, as well as working with MATHCOUNTS and JETS. He serves as a member of the local Ada water steering committee and undertakes consulting projects.

Dr. Ward has been active in ASEE, serving for two years as executive board chair for the north central section and as campus representative. He is a past director of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers and was chair of its professional engineers in education practice division.

His chapter's nomination, stated: "Dr. Ward guides the officers in running the group, but allows each officer to truly be a leader for the group. His support for new ideas has allowed the chapter to grow, take on new challenges, and continue [its] effectiveness as a service organization."

In recognition of his leadership abilities, numerous contributions at the local and national levels, and talent for motivating a chapter to strive for excellence, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Robert L. Ward as the 2011 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor.

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**Tau Beta Pi, the world's largest engineering society, has initiated more than 525,000 members since it was founded in 1885. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Association has 237 active collegiate chapters and 20 active alumnus chapters throughout the country.**