Birmingham academic recognized as inspirational scientist and engineer

Posted on Thursday 3rd April 2014

Professor Richard Williams from the University of Birmingham has been recognised by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) as one of their inspirational scientists and engineers.

Professor Williams, who is the University's Head of College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, was named a RISE Renowned Fellow by the EPSRC.

The RISE Fellows were chosen by an independent panel from nominees for the RISE awards who are Fellows of the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Williams will join other RISE Renowned Fellows at a dinner at the Cheltenham Science Festival, hosted by the incoming Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the EPSRC Professor Philip Nelson.

The EPSRC, in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineering, launched the RISE campaign towards the end of last year to mark the 20th anniversary of the EPSRC. As well as the RISE Renowned Fellows they also announced 10 RISE Leaders for 2014. These RISE Leaders are recognised as innovators in engineering and physical sciences research who will help inspire and encourage others. They will be paired with individuals from government, business or media to communicate the importance and impact of their research, helping their partners become champions for science.

They will also nominate researchers who are 'Rising Stars' tipped to lead internationally excellent research in the future.

Chairman of the panel and current CEO of EPSRC Professor David Delpy said: *"One of the best aspects of my job at EPSRC has been the chance to meet and speak directly to some of the most exciting, innovative and enthusiastic scientists and engineers in the UK. This campaign gives us the chance to recognise these outstanding individuals, but also to let others get to know them and the great research that they are doing."*

Philip Greenish, Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Engineering, commented: *"The RISE awards are a unique opportunity to recognise established and future research leaders in engineering and physical sciences.*

"RISE is part of the Engineering for Growth campaign which aims to bring engineering to the heart of society; celebrating the contribution of inspiring researchers to growth and innovation is a great way to help create a connection between engineering and daily life."

Ends

For further information
Kate Chapple, Press Office, University of Birmingham, tel 0121 414 2772 or 07789 921164, email: **k.h.chapple@bham.ac.uk (mailto:k.h.chapple@bham.ac.uk)**

© University of Birmingham 2015