

Mr. Otto H. York

The late Otto H. York was a long-standing and highly successful member of the AIChE North Jersey Section. In 1993, the Awards Committee assigned the North Jersey Section Professional award to Mr. York. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Mr. York was born in Chicago, grew up in Indiana, and received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University.

In 1947 he founded the Otto H. York Company, Inc., which produced the very well known York DEMISTER, the first of six inventions patented by Mr. York. The device is still used today throughout the world. He then attacked the problem of liquid-liquid extraction, and developed the famous York-Scheibel Column, a breakthrough in liquid-liquid extraction technology. In 1952, the York Process Equipment Corporation was founded to produce solvent extraction equipment. By 1984 when the York Corporation became a part of Foster Wheeler Corporation, it was an established leader in liquid-liquid extraction as well as other processes.

In 2002, Mr. York pledged \$1 million to New Jersey Institute of Technology's Chemical Engineering department. This endowment fund was made to establish scholarships to attract outstanding students to NJIT's chemical engineering department, as well as to support research by faculty. That same year the department was renamed the Otto H. York Department of Chemical Engineering.

In addition to AIChE, Mr. York was a long time member of the American Chemical Society, serving at one time as National Chairman of the Division of Industrial Engineering Chemistry.